



**Inside**

**STAN HANSEN:  
"I DESERVE TO BE BANNED!"**

AUGUST 1978  
47727 \$1.00

# **Wrestling**

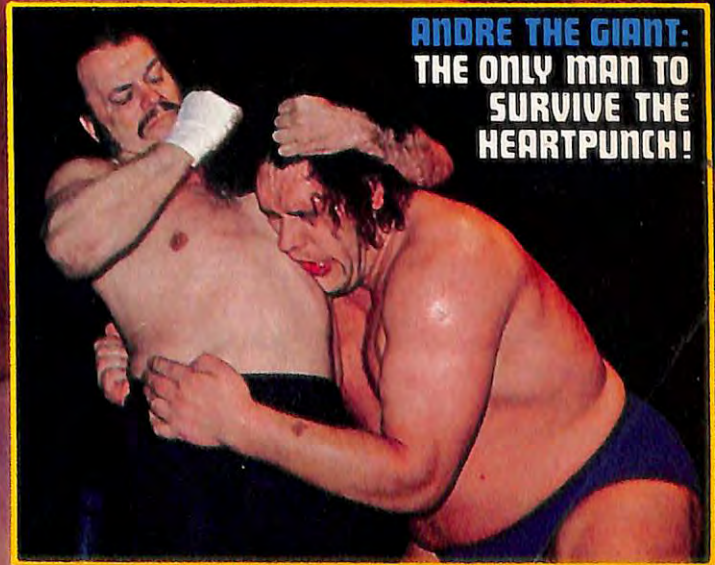
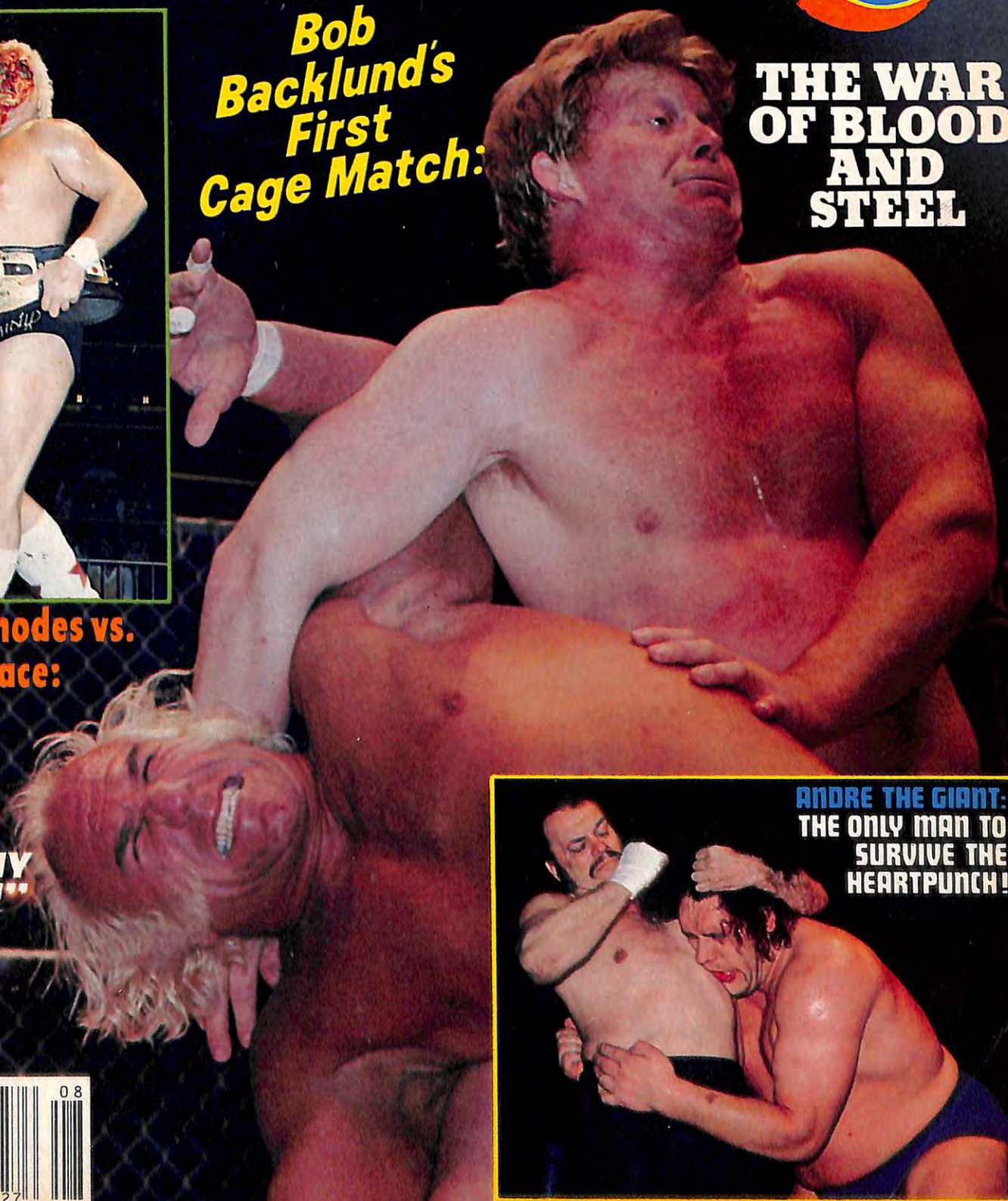
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**Dusty Rhodes vs.  
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THE  
BELT  
I WON  
WITH MY  
BLOOD!"**



**ANDRE THE GIANT:  
THE ONLY MAN TO  
SURVIVE THE  
HEARTPUNCH!**





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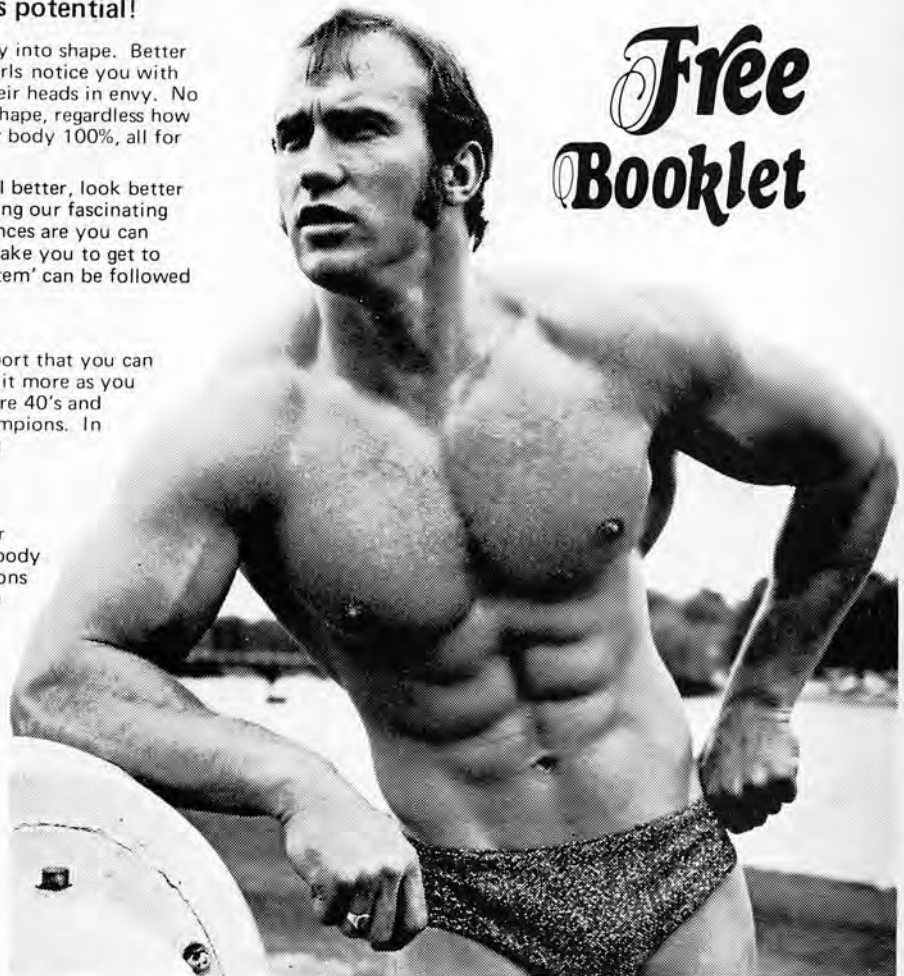
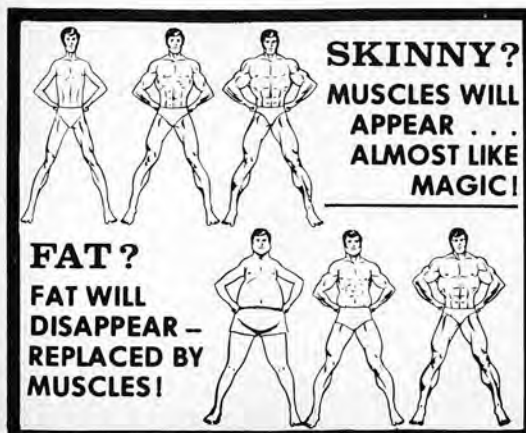
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# INSIDE *Wrestling*

THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS  
THE LID OFF PRO WRESTLING

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# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter  
King  
Editor-in-Chief

Sometimes you just can't win. No matter how fair, how objective, how honest you try to be, it seems someone complains. For instance: In the May issue of INSIDE WRESTLING, we featured a story about the historic night when Superstar Graham, then WWF champion, and Harley Race, NWA king, battled. The story was titled, "What Really Happened at the Superbowl of Wrestling." It was an objective, impartial account of the match between these two giants of the ring.

Well, about 10 hours after the first magazine went on sale, I received this telegram: "KING. SUPERBOWL STORY WAS A CROCK. WHY NOT TELL WHOLE TRUTH. I WON MATCH CONVINCINGLY. IS GRAHAM PAYING YOU OFF?" It was sent, of course by Harley Race.

But wait, there's more. Two days after I got the telegram, this letter appeared in my morning mail: "Dear Moron: You clowns at Inside Wrestling continue to malign and libel the greatest wrestler in history. Everybody knows I whipped Race in two straight falls. Why must you people always lie?" This letter was signed by none other than Superstar Graham.

So, there you have it. That's what it's like being Editor-in-Chief of the world's largest wrestling magazine. Like I say, sometimes you just can't win.

\* \* \*

This is a very sad month for all of us at INSIDE WRESTLING. Our beloved Managing Editor, Michael B. Kape, is leaving.

Michael is taking over the chairmanship of the powerful IFW, the Institute for Fairness in Wrestling. I know I join all of you in wishing Michael the best of luck in his new position.



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# ON THE ROAD

with  
Michael B. Kape

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BOSTON

THE OMNI  
ATLANTA

THE FAIRGROUNDS  
RICHMOND

**E**ASTHAMPTON, NEW YORK—I will dispense with the usual rhetoric and come right to the point: this is the last "On the Road" column I will ever write.

For 25 months, I have reported to you about the lives and personalities of the most famous men in the sport. I have tried to spot trends, seek out up-and-coming superstars, talk to men trying to make a comeback, and delve into the souls of the most notorious grapplers. I have spent many hours traveling around this great country. I was burnt by The Sheik in Toronto. I have worn out three cars in the course of my travels. I have had more interesting and varied experiences in two years than most reporters have in a lifetime.

But now it is over.

questions of the men fans love most. By being objective, I have been effective.

The Institute for Fairness in Wrestling (IFW) is an international coalition of wrestling fans, promoters, journalists, and other interested parties. It is dedicated to insuring that wrestling retain its prominence throughout the world. Presently, its powers are limited. But as time goes on, the influence the Institute exerts will be felt everywhere. The coalition's directors have asked me to become Chairman of the Board for IFW, and I have accepted the position. By the time you read this column, I will have assumed the responsibilities.

Sheik and Rocky Johnson were just two men Michael Kape met during his two-and-one-half-years On The Road.



It has always been my philosophy to stay neutral when dealing with wrestlers, be they scientific or rulebreaking. This stand has enabled me to understand and talk with the most vicious men in the sport. It has helped me to ask soul-searching

As Chairman of the IFW, I will be traveling all over the world to measure the success of our work. During the next few years, the IFW will be investigating several important aspects of the sport. These include: the growing

(Continued on page 44)

# There's a world of music between having a guitar... *and knowing how to play it!*

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# Body Slams & Pinfalls

By Dan  
Shocket



Above: Spiros Arion gets revenge from the man who double-crossed him, Jay Strongbow. Right: Kindly Freddie Blassie gives Spiros some advice.

**F**OR TOO MANY years, Spiros Arion wasted his skill trying to be a fan favorite. The soul of a tiger lay imprisoned in the heart of a lion. Then, one night, the tiger broke loose. Spiros Arion has never been the same.

Today, under the tutelage of brilliant Freddie Blassie, Arion promises to rise to the highest ranks of professional wrestling. It's been a long, hard struggle, battling against the forces of cowardice and ignorance. A lesser man would have crumbled, given in to the fans' demands. Spiros proved his

courage wasn't reserved for the ring.

"Of course I was blacklisted in the WWWF," Arion declares, "right after it became apparent I could destroy Bruno Sammartino at will. Then Sammartino lost the title, and I didn't

Arion's abilities are now honed to perfection. He is the artist of the ring, controlled fury at its most savage. Let the fans moan about rules and regulations. If they can't appreciate greatness, to hell with them!



want to come back when Graham held the belt. I knew he couldn't have it too long; they'd steal it from him someday. Well, Backlund's got it now. He thinks he can beat me. That's the only way I could get back in here. Once they see I can beat Backlund, five'll get you ten they'll blacklist me again. Commissioners refuse to have a real man as champion."

It'd be easy to write this column as simply a welcome back to Arion. But his career puts into harsh focus the continuing and horrible injustice inflicted upon the best athletes in the sport. That is what we must discuss.

Men who go by their own integrity in wrestling are often shafted by the short end of the

*(Continued on page 46)*

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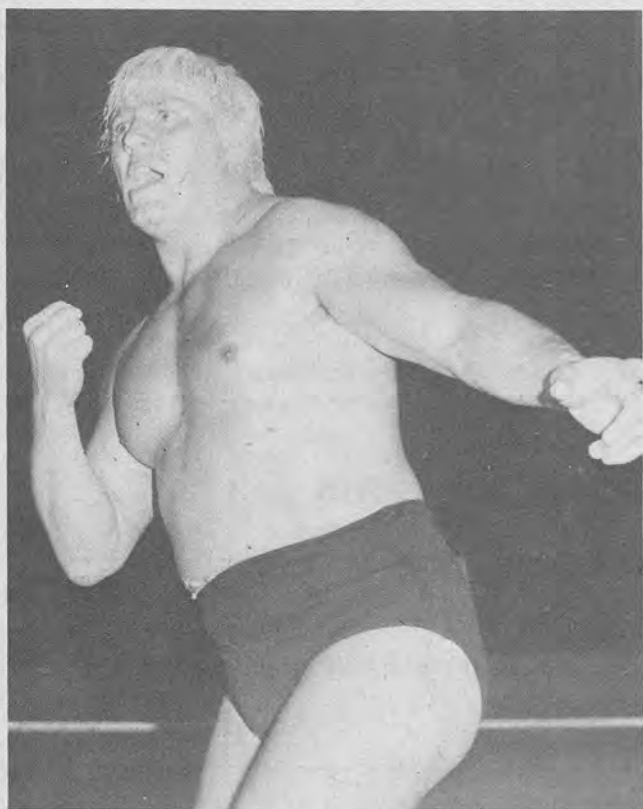
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# Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

**RICHMOND:** Days are quiet here. It's not the best place in the world for Rick Steamboat. He's restless, nervous, searching for an answer he's afraid to find. Has he come along too fast? Will he burn out like so many other rookies who never



**PAT PATTERSON**

become veterans? Young men don't understand patience. They do not know there is often too much time to get things done. Somewhere, in the back of his mind, Steamboat is plagued by visions of failure, the decades of being a has been or never

was. Few men can successfully leave the glory behind and happily join the rest of the world. It's much harder for a guy who spends the rest of his life wondering what went wrong, what made him fail so young. The next few months will determine the rest of Steamboat's life. Here's wishing him luck. Here's wishing us all luck. We'll all need it.

**CHICAGO:** For some men, familiarity is the greatest enemy. Pat Patterson needs to stay on the road, running away from anyone who might know him too well. For a while, Pat was staying in California, seeing if he could settle down like the rest of the world. It almost seemed as if he had made it. Then Pat got the urge for going and I guess he had to go. He's been rambling around since then, trying out places and styles like different suits of clothes. He doesn't stay with any one way too long, which is long enough so far as he's concerned. Pat won't talk about his California days. He left something behind there that still scares him.

**TORONTO:** Larry Zbyszko is like a tune you can't identify but can't get out of your head. In almost every respect he's the picture of a scientific wrestler. But each time I see him, something looks wrong. I should trust him, want to trust him, but can't. When no one's looking, he has a mean and hungry look. The boil of ambition is about to burst. Nobody else feels as I do. Maybe the years have made me too suspicious. Tony Garea says he'd trust Larry with his life. Well, it's his life. Bobby Heenan, who should know about these things, thinks I'm crazy. "Bruno

**Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor**

Sammartino destroyed that kid," Heenan believes, "teaching all sorts of stupid things. There's no way to save Zbyszko, though I wouldn't mind managing him if a miracle occurs. But I don't believe in miracles." I don't either. But I also don't believe in sure things.

**LOS ANGELES:** A friend of mine who hated wrestling/loved Moondog Mayne. The man was an artist about 10 years before his time. Last year, he died by drowning. Drunk, he took a canoe out on a moonlit lake and leaned over trying to kiss the reflection of the moon. He fell overboard and drowned. Mayne was his favorite because Moondog would regularly go to the limits. The man would swallow fish, eat glass, destroy an opponent and take risks that would scare even the bravest grappler. "Mayne is a madman hero," my friend would say, and he should know. "It's an honor to see him." I thought about my friend while watching Moondog battle in the grips of hysteria. My friend found beauty in this madness. My friend is dead.

**TULSA:** There is a majesty in Ernie Ladd, but this is a warrior king. It wouldn't take much imagination to envision Ladd leading his troops in the sacking of a city, sparing nothing, and taking no prisoners. Watching Ladd wrestle one can almost see him think, plotting his strategies with instantaneous certainty. His cunning is legendary among fellow wrestlers. Some believe he would be a top grappler even if he had only average skills. With Ladd's superb athletic abilities, no one is safe against him. When not in battle, Ladd exudes an aura of charm with just the slightest bit of menace to insure his companion's discomfort. I have no doubt if my life stood between Ladd and something

he wanted very badly, my life would be forfeit.

**MIAMI:** Heroes make me uncomfortable. They try too hard to confront danger, as if courage is the answer to everything. In wrestling, might makes right, and all the courage in the world won't beat a Boston crab. Rocky Johnson is a hero, but he also knows what I mean. Johnson's courage never gets in the way of his intelligence. Rocky is the only hero I've ever known who I'd spend some time with. Too many heroes attract trouble. Rocky has too much class.



**ROCKY JOHNSON**

Class beats heroism in my book. Dick Slater needs to learn about class. He needs to learn about himself first. Someday, the contradictions inside Slater will destroy him. The time has come when I no longer want to be there to see it. □



# NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

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## ROANOKE, VA.

By Brian Patteson



**ANDRE THE GIANT  
vs.  
MASKED SUPERSTAR**



Andre the Giant proved why he is the fans' favorite with his ferocious battle against the Masked Superstar. After 13 minutes of furious action, Andre was victorious when Superstar was counted out of the ring.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Baron Von Raschke retained his NWA TV title with a controversial win over Johnny Weaver . . . Wahoo McDaniel won a hard fought victory over Greg Valentine . . . Jay Youngblood and Roberto Soto bested Mr. X I and II . . . Jerry Stubbs and Jan Nelson wrestled to a draw.

## MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

By Ken Dunlop



**RON MILLER  
vs.  
BRUISER BRODIE**

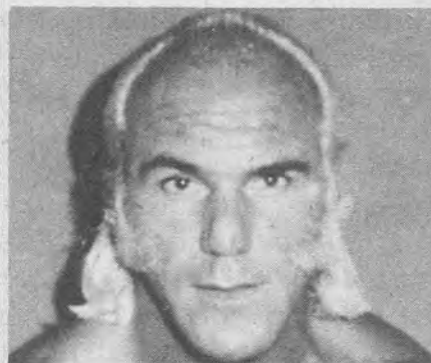


Ron Miller regained his Australian Brass Knuckles title in a bloody, vicious brawl with Bruiser Brodie. The match, which saw both men saturated with blood, was one of the cruellest bouts in Australian wrestling history.

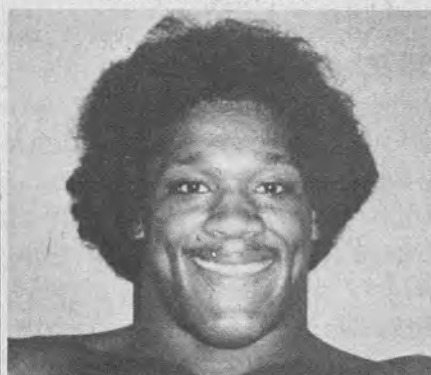
**OTHER BOUTS:** Larry O'Dea and Ron Miller defeated Brute Bernard and Waldo Von Erich . . . Johnny Gray and Kevin Martin pulled off the upset of the year with their controversial victory over Professor Tanaka and Mr. Fuji.

## ATLANTA, GA.

By Nannette Gehling



**SUPERSTAR BILLY  
GRAHAM  
vs.  
TONY ATLAS**

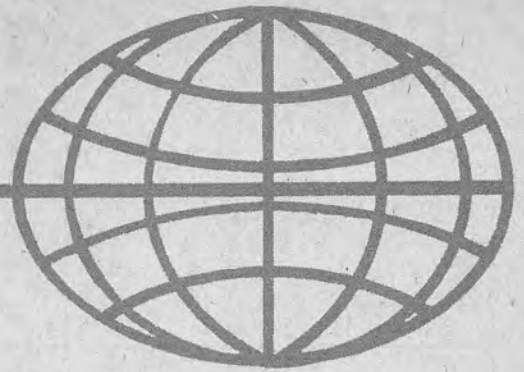


The match between Superstar Billy Graham and Tony Atlas may go down in wrestling history. Tony was a picture of grappling magnificence while Graham deployed many illegal tactics. Atlas also won on a disqualification.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Dusty Rhodes triumphed over Stan Hansen . . . Lars Anderson and Tommy Rich wrestled to a draw.



# WRESTLING CAPITALS



## TAMPA, FLA.

By Jeff Wintle and  
Mike Hernandez



**HARLEY RACE  
vs.  
JACK BRISCO**



NWA champion Harley Race came to Tampa to defend his title against former champion Jack Brisco. Brisco appeared on his way to victory when Harley smashed Jack over the head with the NWA belt, thereby getting disqualified.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Ivan Koloff was disqualified against WWWF king Bob Backlund . . . Andre the Giant, Steve Keirn, and Mike Graham overwhelmed Ox Baker, Killer Kox, and Stan Hansen . . . Dick Slater and Jerry Brisco drew.

## SPRINGFIELD MASS.

By Charlie Kimball



**KEN PATERA  
vs.  
MIL MASCARAS**



Ken Patera grabbed an early lead with many rulebreaking tactics on Mil Mascaras. Suddenly, Mascaras implemented a series of drop kicks and flying tactics, which eventually knocked Patera out of the ring, where he was counted out.

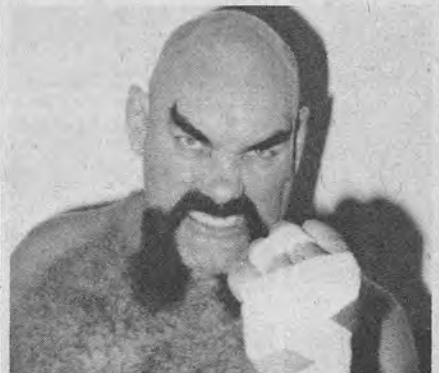
**OTHER BOUTS:** Peter Maivia and Crazy Luke Graham were both disqualified for hitting the referee . . . Larry Zbyszko and Haystacks Calhoun won over Stan Stasiak and Johnny Rodz . . . Moose Monroe mauled Pete Austin.

## DETROIT, MICH.

By Don Burton



**BOBO BRAZIL  
vs.  
OX BAKER**



Bobo Brazil displayed class, courage and skill in triumphing over villainous Ox Baker. Despite his use of foreign objects and constant rulebreaking tactics, Baker was unable to beat the masterful techniques of Brazil.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Mil Mascaras won on disqualification over The Sheik. ✓ Bulldog Don Kent defeated Bulldog Brower in "The Battle of the Bulldogs" . . . The Magnificent Zulu whipped Tony Parisi . . . "Arriba" Luis Martinez soundly thrashed El Santo. □





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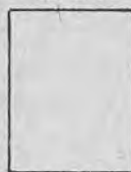
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# TOP SECRET

## Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Randy  
Gordon

**W**HENEVER YOU SEE him, he has a mass of tape on his right fist. He claims he wears the tape because of a severe break he once suffered in the hand. Athletic commissions buy that junk. I don't! I know better. I know what is under the tape Stan Stasiak wears on his right hand. Under that mass of white tape are brass knuckles.

Only recently, Andre the Giant felt what it is like to be heartpunched by Stasiak. Only the Giant's tremendous strength kept him from being knocked unconscious by Stan's infamous and illegal maneuver. Later, Andre told me, "I have been hit by bare fists before, and I have been hit by foreign objects. I can tell the difference between a bare, or even taped fist, and a foreign object. What Stasiak hit me with was a foreign object of some kind. I distinctly remember that the last time we wrestled, he also used a foreign object hidden under the tape. Doesn't any commission member ever check that tape before a match?"

That is exactly what I want to know. Recently, Stasiak invited me to watch as a member of the New York State Athletic Commission examined the tape before a match.

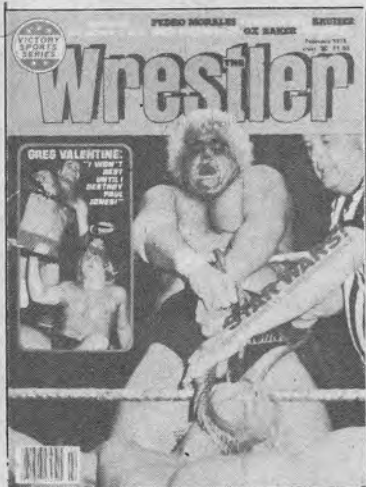
"You'll see there's nothing under there, Gordon," bellowed Stasiak. Sure enough, a commission member squeezed the tape, then turned to me and said, "Nothing under there but skin." His eyes told a different story.

"Let me have a look at that tape," I said.

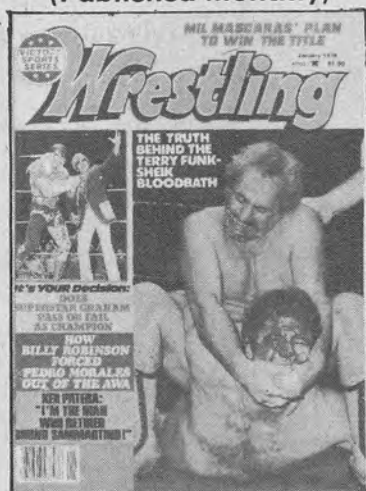
"Get away from me, Gordon!" shouted Stasiak. "Only commission members are

*(Continued on page 48)*

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If you join "The Wonderful World of Pen Pals," you can make new friends throughout the world. And all of your new pen pals will be wrestling fans too! We will print your picture right here in this magazine, and also a little bit of information about who you are. That way, your new pen pals will know something about you even before they start to send you their letters! Just think—you can have the chance to receive mail from all over the world! All you have to do is fill out the coupon below and mail it to us, along with a recent picture. We'll take it from there.

PHOTOS CANNOT BE RETURNED!

## PEN PALS DEPT.

Box 48

Rockville Centre, NY 11571

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies, other interests \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Wrestler \_\_\_\_\_

I like ☐ Good Guys ☐ Bad Guys

I'd Like As My Pen Pal:

☐ Boys ☐ Girls ☐ Anyone

You Have My Permission To Print My  
Picture.

Age \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature Required**  
**DO NOT PRINT**



**RUSTY TIBBS (14)**  
204 S. Walnut  
Bondville, IL 61815  
Likes horses. Wilbur Snyder  
his favorite. Likes good  
and bad guys. Boys for PP's.



**JAMES PRICKETT (14)**  
Route 1  
Glenwood, GA 30428  
Enjoys chess. Dusty  
Rhodes his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**TOM RYERSON (12)**  
RR 2  
Ailsa Craig, Ont. CANADA  
Likes football. Billy  
Graham his favorite.  
Likes bad guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**DARIN ENLOE (15)**  
902 S. Logan  
Independence, MO 64050  
Likes to fish. Ted  
Dibiase his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



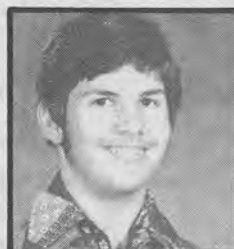
**TONY TAYLOR (14)**  
P.O. Box 861  
Sandersville, GA 31082  
Enjoys sports. Mr.  
Wrestling II his  
favorite. Likes good  
guys. Anyone for PP's.



**WANDA JOHNSON (14)**  
Rt. 1 Box 181  
Dorchester, SC 29437  
Enjoys softball. Rick  
Steamboat her favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**LOH TOON-SENG (20)**  
Apt. Block 63 413E  
Kallang Bahru, Singapore  
Likes martial arts.  
Mark Lewin his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Girls for pen pals.



**TOM UTZ (15)**  
7734 Gen. Sheridan  
St. Louis, MO 63123  
Collects cans. Dick  
the Bruiser his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**JAMES TRANSON (20)**  
4201 Country Club  
Winston-Salem, NC 27104  
Likes baseball. Paul  
Jones his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**JOANN ROSS (6)**  
3520 N 15 St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19140  
Likes dolls. Billy  
Graham her favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**RICARDO ROSS (7)**  
3520 N. 15 St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19140  
Enjoys baseball. Bob  
Backlund his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**FRANK KIM (12)**  
16 Goldweber Ave.  
Jackson, NJ 08527  
Likes soccer. Baron  
Scicluna his favorite.  
Likes good and bad  
guys. Girls for PP's.

# N PALS



**EDDIE BUDWIN (8)**  
706 Mountain  
Philadelphia, PA 19148  
Likes to jog. Bruno  
Sammartino his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Boys for pen pals.



**MATT PATTISON (14)**  
6 Grandstand Place  
Toronto, Ont. CANADA  
Likes to bowl. Dusty  
Rhodes his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**GARY CUBETA (15)**  
78 Crystal Lake Rd.  
Middletown, CT 06457  
Likes sports. Billy  
Graham his favorite.  
Likes good and bad  
guys. Anyone for PP's.



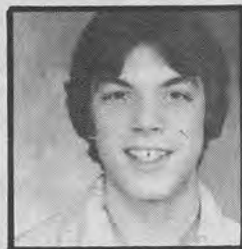
**JOHN GORDON (13)**  
5024 Westgrove Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23455  
Likes football. Rick  
Steamboat his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**MARY ANN JACOBS (18)**  
5002 Hamilton Street  
Hopewell, VA 23860  
Enjoys tennis. Dino  
Bravo her favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**RALPH PALAZZI (13)**  
41 Monticello Ave.  
Newark, NJ 07106  
Likes football. Billy  
Graham his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Girls for pen pals.



**BOB LUCAS (15)**  
900 Broad St.  
Endicott, NY 13760  
Likes tennis. Bruno  
Sammartino his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**RALPH AHEARN (13)**  
811 Walton Ave.  
Bronx, NY 10451  
Collects comics. Jay  
Strongbow his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**JAMES BOYCE (20)**  
Route 1  
Pamplin, VA 23958  
Enjoys hunting. Wahoo  
McDaniel his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**STEVEN PATE (12)**  
227 London Ave.  
Pawtucket, RI 02861  
Enjoys hockey. Billy  
Graham his favorite.  
Likes bad guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**KENNETH ROUSE JR. (15)**  
Route 4 Box 337  
Greenville, NC 27834  
Likes art. Andre the  
Giant his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**MICHAEL ROUSE (13)**  
Route 4 Box 337  
Greenville, NC 27834  
Likes art. Paul Jones  
his favorite. Likes  
good guys. Girls  
for pen pals.



**MARY ANN CASSADY (17)**  
Route 3 Box 176-G  
Stuart, VA 24171  
Likes horses. Rick  
Steamboat her favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**LAURA DUNCAN (12)**  
RR 3 Box 228  
Cumberland, KY 40823  
Enjoys tennis. Dino  
Bravo her favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**DOREEN HUGHES (15)**  
66 Fourth Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11231  
Likes sports. Ivan  
Putski her favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**JEFF HOUSE (18)**  
402 McGown  
Raymond, IL 62560  
Enjoys swimming. Dick  
the Bruiser his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Girls for pen pals.



**FRANCIS VALDES (12)**  
30 Sherman Ave.  
Trenton, NJ 08638  
Enjoys swimming. Billy  
Graham his favorite.  
Likes bad guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**TOMMY VALDES (9)**  
30 Sherman Ave.  
Trenton, NJ 08638  
Likes sports. Ivan  
Putski his favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**PHYLLIS SMITH (14)**  
1005 Sinclair Hills Rd.  
Lutz, FL 33549  
Likes to swim. Jack  
Brisco her favorite.  
Likes good guys.  
Anyone for pen pals.



**PAUL BISHOP (16)**  
Box 686 Melanie Dr.  
Piedmont, SC 29673  
Enjoys football. Paul  
Jones his favorite.  
Likes good and bad  
guys. Girls for PP's.



# NAMES MAKI

AWA Champion **NICK BOCKWINKLE** has dared NWA Champion **HARLEY RACE** to meet him in a title vs. title confrontation. Bockwinkle, upset that Race has defended his championship laurels against two WWF champions (**SUPERSTAR GRAHAM** and **BOB BACKLUND**) feels he is getting shafted by Harley. "There is no legitimate reason why Race should not wrestle me!" Bockwinkle stresses. "I am much better than those other two champion pansies



**NICK BOCKWINKLE**

he wrestled." Race counters, "Bockwinkle doesn't even belong in the top 50 challengers for my title. Wrestling him would be a big waste of my valuable time."

When **DINO BRAVO** and **DOMINIC DeNUCCI** won the WWF tag team championship, they immediately made an announcement that they would not turn down a challenge from any worthy opponents—no matter



**MIL MASCARAS**

what Federation they were in. As soon as **MR. HATORI**, manager of Florida tag team champions **MR. SATO** and **MR. SAITO** heard this, he immediately put in a bid for his team. Dom and Dino kept their word and accepted. Now, **MIKE GRAHAM** and **STEVE KEIRN**, U.S. tag team champions, are discussing the possibility of challenging Dino and Dom as soon as their schedule permits. "We'll be glad to wrestle them," Bravo says.

**MIL MASCARAS** is headed for California to thwart the evil doings of **OUTLAW RON BASS** and **MOONDOG MAYNE**. . . After a brutal tag team cage match, **JESSE VENTURA** and **JERRY OATES** won the Pacific Northwest tag team championship. Ex-champs **BUDDY ROSE** and **ED WISKOWSKI** still claim the belts, citing, "The belts cannot change hands in a cage match!" . . . Mid-Atlantic heavyweight champion **KEN PATERA** is doing everything he can to avoid a match against **ANDRE THE GIANT** . . .

**DEAN HO** is still the number one man to beat in San Francisco.

A violent argument, complete with chair throwing, erupted between **SUPERSTAR GRAHAM** and half-brother **LUKE GRAHAM** after a recent tag team outing. It all began when Superstar accused



**DEAN HO**



**SUPERSTAR GRAHAM**

Luke of not carrying his share of the battle. "You were in the ring physically, but I don't know where the hell you were mentally!" Superstar shouted at Luke. "Damnit!" Luke exploded. "Don't tell me my business. I knew what I was doing! Bug off!" Superstar didn't and the argument got hotter.

# N' NEWS

Bill Apter  
reporting...

When chairs began to fly, special police rushed in and forced Luke to go to a different dressing room. Superstar and Luke left the arena in separate cars. Is a war of the Grahams in the works?

After his most recent battle against HARLEY RACE, DUSTY RHODES is calling himself "World Champion." "I outdid the dude!" exclaims the American Dream. "Harley Race is not the NWA champion, I am. Just ask the people, they'll tell you who the real main man is!" . . . MR. WRESTLING II will be very upset the next time he sees DICK SLATER. As you recall, the masked man became friends with Dick when Slater began wrestling by the rules. Dick is now back to his vicious ways, and Wrestling II makes no bones about how much he detests the young man for returning to his former style.

OX BAKER, one of the foremost practitioners of the heart punch (the other being STAN STASIAK) says he could, and will, permanently end the career of BRUNO SAM-MARTINO. "Then there will be no doubt about whether Bruno will retire or not," Baker says. "I'll see to it he can never wrestler again!" . . . Florida heavyweight champion JACK BRISCO works out in the gym five hours a day before a title defense . . . JERRY BRISCO is willing to pay BOB ROOP \$5000 if Roop will wrestle him scientifically for the entire duration of their next match.

TERRY FUNK has become the biggest nemesis SHEIK has had to contend with in quite some time . . . Veteran star SAILOR ART THOMAS frequently teaming with young KEVIN SULLIVAN



**DUSTY RHODES**

. . . "KANGAROO" AL COSTELLO has started wrestling full-time in Tennessee . . . RANDY SAVAGE is making quite a reputation for himself in Alabama . . . Believe it or not, BLACKJACK MULLIGAN is being cheered by fans in the Mid-Atlantic region. He has started a war against RIC FLAIR and the fans are 100% behind the big Texan.



**BLACKJACK MULLIGAN**

The tournament to determine new world tag team champions (since Ric Flair and Greg Valentine were stripped of the title) is over. After demolishing several teams in a one-night tournament, RICK STEAMBOAT and PAUL JONES are now the number one duo. Paul and Rick also hold the Mid-Atlantic tag team title . . .



**DICK MURDOCH**

Why hasn't the team of THE LUMBERJACKS, managed by CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO, taken on any top-ranked competition as of yet? . . . DICK MURDOCH still holding the Missouri state title despite challenges by the top men in the sport.

That's all for now. See you next month. □



# HOTSEAT

## STAN HANSEN: "I DESERVE TO BE BANNED!"

**H**ES ONE OF the most notoriously brutal grapplers in history. His list of crippled victims include Bruno Sammartino, whose neck snapped after being savaged by the "lariat." Some of the most famous wrestlers around are afraid to go near him. He's cunning, ruthless, and knows no mercy. He's Stan Hansen.

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED  
BY DAN SHOCKET

**Q:** Welcome to the Hotseat. You've been so busy lately, it's hard to know where to begin.

**A:** Yeah, I've been doing pretty good. It's not hard when you consider how lousy the competition is. At times, I miss Sammartino. He was at least funny to look at.

**Q:** You don't seem to be having too much trouble with opponents at that. First off, why don't we dismiss this

nonsense about you cheating.

**A:** It's true. I'm so bad I deserve to be banned. It's shameful the stuff I'm allowed to get away with.

**Q:** You've got to be kidding.

**A:** Why should I lie? Hell, wrestling fairly couldn't let me break guys in half. How many

---

**“**  
**I devised a strategy so horrible that it's guaranteed to put half a dozen guys in wheelchairs. And there isn't a referee who can prevent it!**  
**”**

---

people does a wimp like Jack Brisco hospitalize? Do you see anybody put on the disabled list by Paul Jones? No sir. I'm the meanest, baddest guy

around and don't you forget it. Why, moments before you came, I devised a strategy so horrible that it's guaranteed to put half a dozen guys in wheelchairs. And there isn't a referee who can prevent it.

**Q:** Why not?

**A:** It's too damn clever! It takes a certain genius to avoid the referee's eyes. I have that genius. Everything I do is devised to make sure the referee can't see me do it. And you know how successful I've been. Hell, if I was any less successful, they'd have booted me out years ago. I'm so dirty, I even make myself cringe!

**Q:** Could you tell us about this new maneuver?

**A:** The fans will read all about it in my first victim's obituary.

**Q:** Could you be talking like this just to scare your opponents?

**A:** Do you think I'd stoop to psychological warfare?

**Q:** The thought had crossed my







**“  
How many so-called  
scientific wrestlers get  
the stuffings beat out  
of them regularly?  
Hundreds!  
”**

mind.

**A:** Well, I can't tell you what to think.

**Q:** Getting back to referees, you said what you do is kept away from the referee's sight. Do you believe, like most intelligent athletes, that if no one says it's illegal, it's legal?

**A:** Of course. Look, this isn't some sort of Sunday School competition. I'm in this thing to win. That's how I get my money. Nobody pays top dollar to a loser. Every smart wrestler knows that. If somebody feels that sticking to the rules is more important than winning, the lobotomy was successful. In this sport, it's every man for himself. If you don't think that way, you're not a man.

**Q:** Is it tough to deceive the referees?

**A:** Sure as hell is. These guys are top professionals. They know what to look for. That's why you can never do the same thing twice, at least not in exactly the same way.

**Q:** So when you're in the ring, you have two enemies: the wrestler and the referee.

**A:** I have thousands of enemies. They're all jealous of me. Look, not only do wrestlers and referees hate my guts, but there's the promoters, commissioners, fans, state officials, even the hot dog vendor hates me. I don't care, either. I'm the only one who matters. The others are there to serve me. Nobody else is going to help me win, so to hell with them.

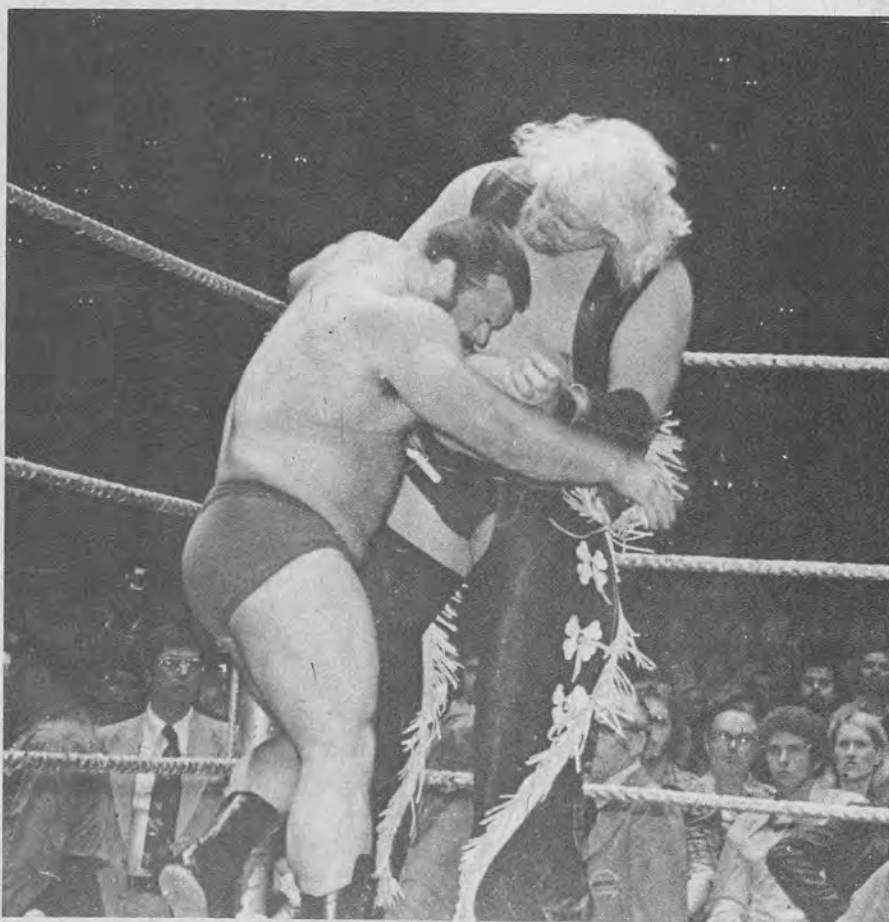
**Q:** That doesn't make you much

of a tag team partner.

**A:** I don't have any kind of partners. I'm in this for myself and only myself. The rest of the world can go take a flying leap.

**Q:** Have you always felt this way?

**A:** Ever since my first match. I didn't come into this sport like a brainless child. I knew what I wanted. Anyone can see it doesn't matter a damn if you're pure as snow or rotten to the core. The only way to get the big bucks in the sport is to win. How many so-called scientific wrestlers get the stuffings beat out of them regularly? Hundreds! And how many of those guys never get into anything more than the preliminary matches? The same hundreds. Do you know how much preliminary wrestlers make? Hell, I



Stan Hansen attacks Ivan Putski before the bell in a match at Madison Square Garden. At this point, Hansen had crippled Bruno Sammartino, putting him out of action for nearly six months.



Above: Hansen stomps Sammartino in front of 40,000 fans at Shea Stadium. Below: Hansen and Putski battle to a finish.



Above: Recently, Stan Hansen made a triumphant tour of Japan. Here he tries to break Hoshino's neck.

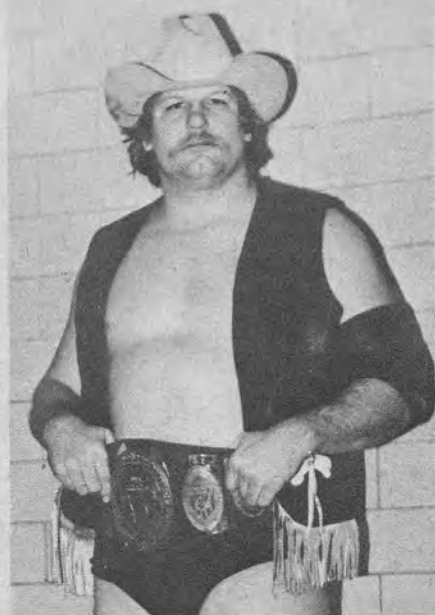
wouldn't even go to an arena for that money. And these guys think it's worth it because they're "dignified sportsmen." Dignity doesn't put steak on the table. No, it's the winners who get it all, and it doesn't matter how they win it.

**Q:** Would you change your style if the "scientific wrestlers" became the big money makers?

**A:** Sure. And when hell freezes over I'll buy ice skates. Look, sport—and this country—is made up of winners, not good sports. Anyone who doesn't take advantage of every dirty trick, every low blow, every illegal tactic is nothing but a fool. Scientific wrestlers and other losers will never make it big in wrestling. Fans don't want to see goody-goody morons, they want to see winners, no matter what they say. It's true in anything. Show me an honest politician and I'll show you a loser.

**Q:** So you think fans don't really believe this nonsense they rant about fair play?

**A:** You want to bet 99% of the fans cheat and steal in real life? They're more crooked than I'll ever be. That's how



**“**  
You won't find me making excuses for myself. I'm proud of what I do and how I do it. I'm the best in the business!  
**”**

you survive in the real world. And that's how you survive in wrestling. And let me tell you another thing. The top "scientific" wrestlers are as dirty as I am. They have to be to win. Look at Sammartino, Rhodes, Gagne, and Strongbow. They'd step over their grandmothers to get a victory. So would I.

**Q:** You're certainly being honest in this interview.

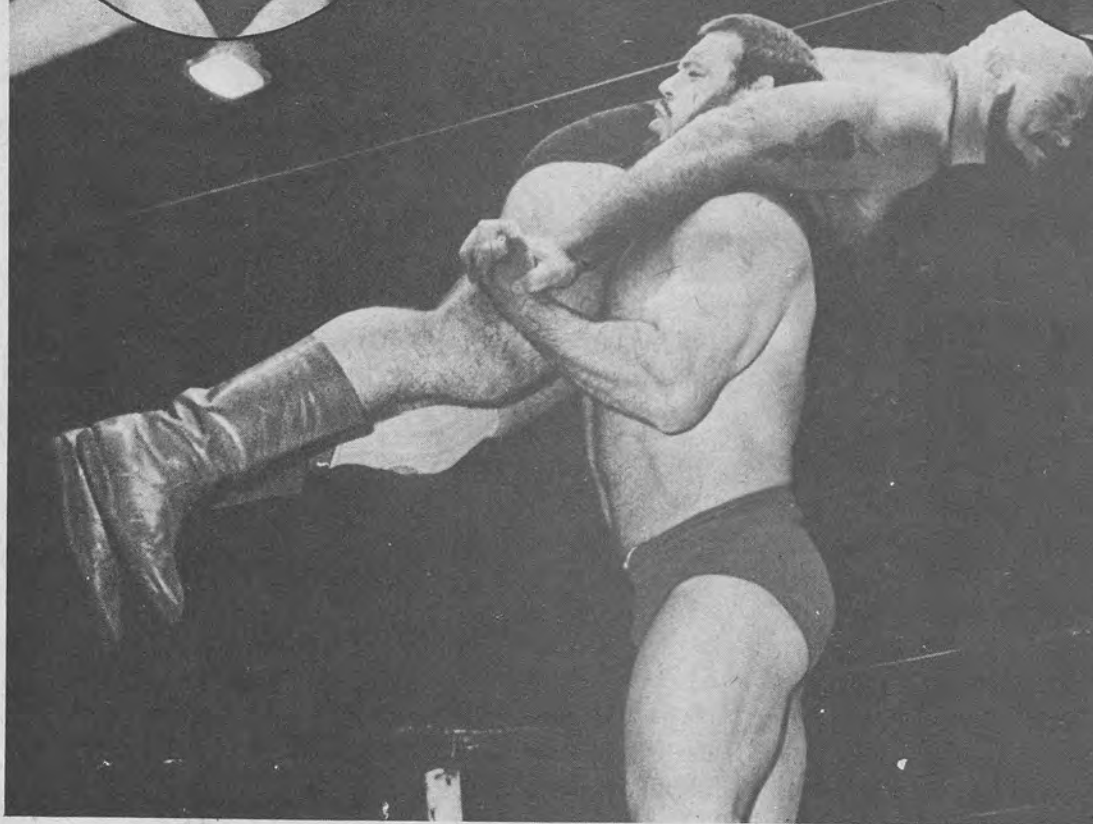
**A:** Why not? You won't find me making excuses for myself. I'm proud of what I do and how I do it. I'm the best in the business. The best. When I start to lie, it'll be time to pack it in.

**Q:** Well, here's hoping you won't need to lie for a long time. Thanks for this interview. □





# ***Putski vs. Koloff:***



## **THIRTY YEARS OF HATRED... 10 MINUTES OF REVENGE!**

**B**ULBOUS BLACK FUMES engulfed the small Polish village. In the distance, the thunderous sounds of artillery fire

relentlessly pursued the fleeing villagers, now refugees, as they sought to escape from the advancing Russian armies.

A little boy tightly hugged his father about the neck, the child's eyes closed, his ears saturated

*(Continued on page 50)*

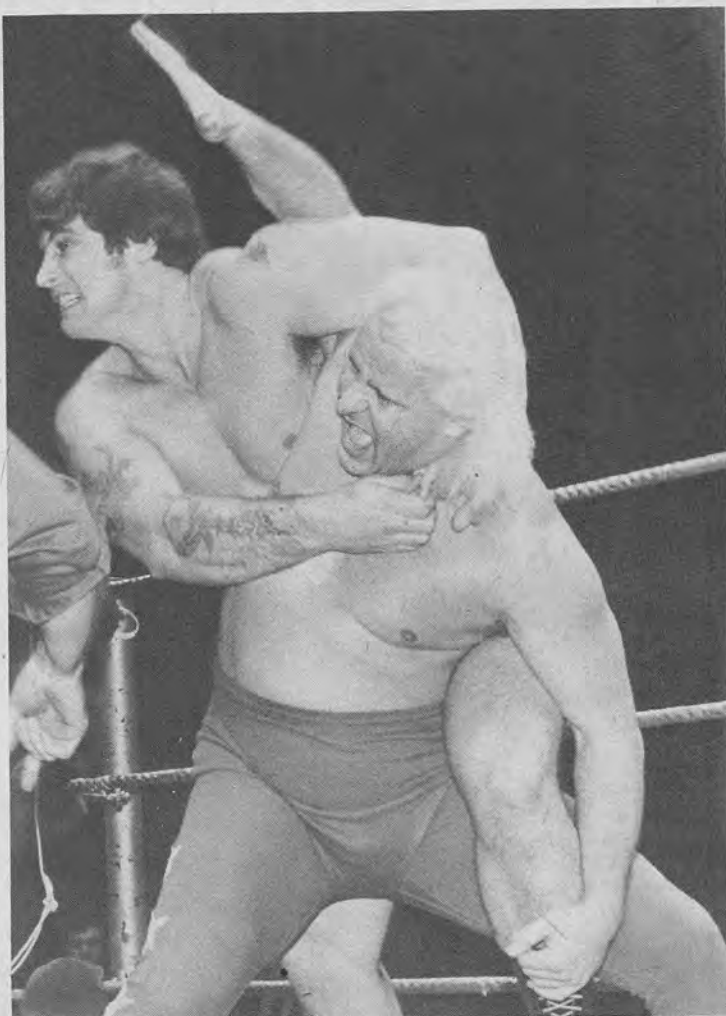
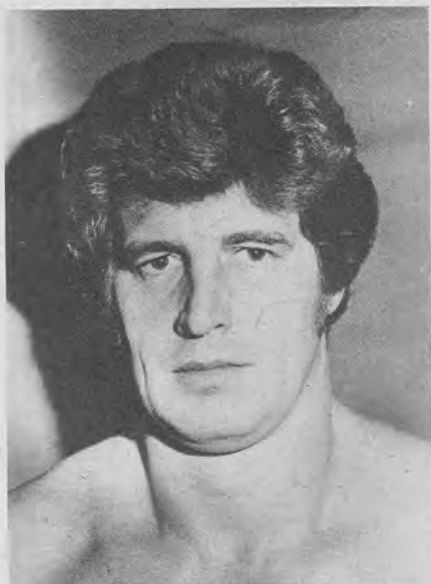
**This was more than a match between two superb grapplers. This match involved pride, dignity and the past and future generations of two proud nations. The whole world was watching**

# INSIDE WRESTLING

25

## capsule profile

TONY GAREA



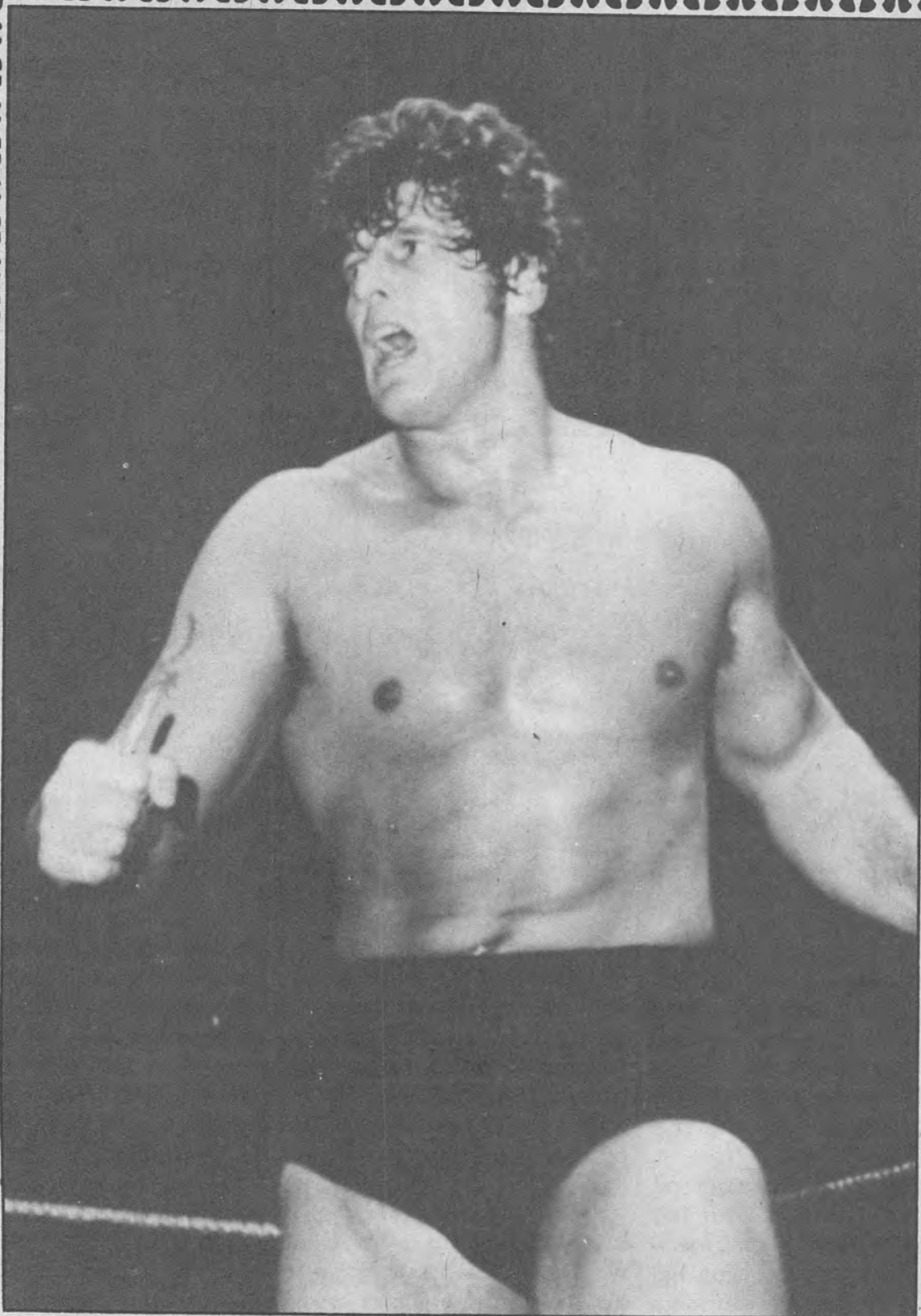
**H** E IS ONE of the most admired wrestlers today . . . The crowd goes wild everytime he enters the arena . . . He has most definitely proven his skills by beating many of the top wrestlers today . . . ("Winning a match isn't as important to me as knowing what to do at the right time.") He never stops exciting his fans . . . We always see new and different moves when this man is wrestling . . . ("It's great to use new moves on your opponent, he never

knows what to expect") . . . His first and most important rule is to always keep in shape . . . He runs at least five miles everyday after working out in his own gym for an hour . . . ("If you haven't got your health, what have you got?") . . . As a rookie, he started out all alone . . . It wasn't long until other great wrestlers saw just how good he was and took him on as their partner for a tag team . . . ("I love tag teams. You get to use more moves which makes for a more exciting

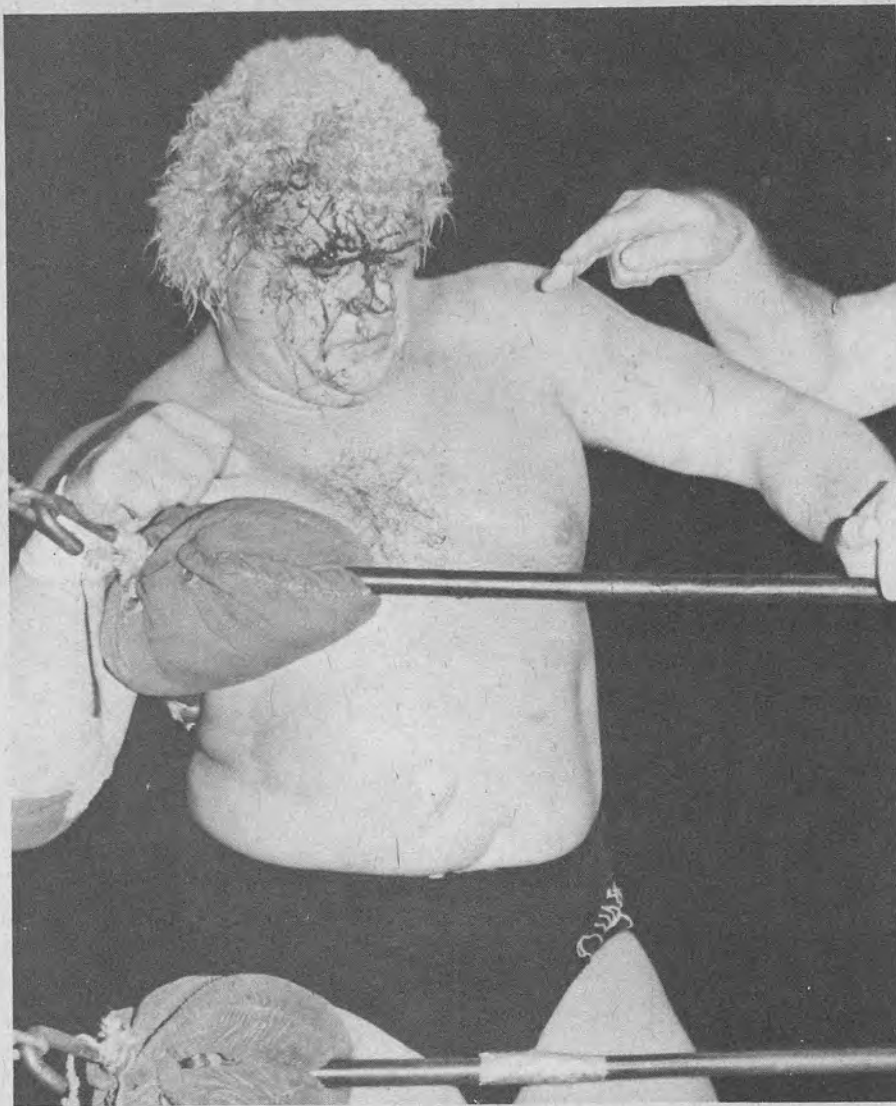
match.") . . . This great scientific wrestler can fool his opponents at any time during a match . . . He knows when to be scientific and when other things come in helpful . . . ("Normally, I like a good scientific match, but when it comes time to get rough, I go right ahead.") . . . Tony's first love is wrestling and he wouldn't think of doing anything else . . . A devoted and hard-working wrestler, we can expect to be seeing Tony Garea around for a long time. □



## CAPSULE PROFILE PIN-UP



**TONY GAREA**



**At long last  
Dusty Rhodes'  
dream was a reality.  
He was  
NWA champion.  
But when the smoke  
cleared it became  
obvious that this  
was not to be. All  
Dusty had to console  
him were the  
tears of his fans**

**D**USTY RACED OVER to the timekeeper's table, his bloodied figure animated by his expected glory. He leaned over and ripped away the NWA title belt, then trotted back into the center of the ring and brandished the diamond-studded belt over his head.

"I'm the champion, you hear. I'm the champion," Rhodes cried out to his rejoicing fans.

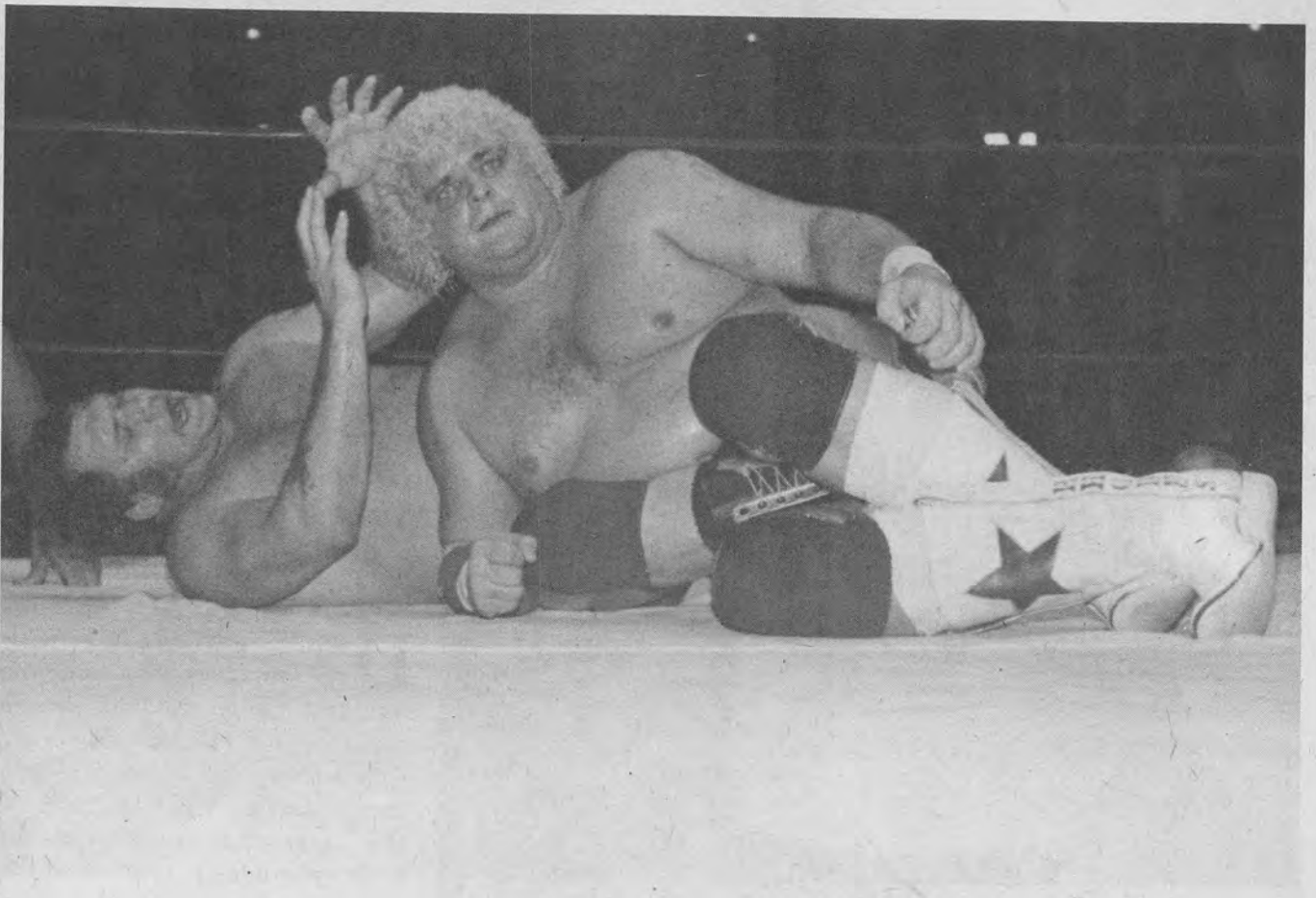
Suddenly, Harley Race dove at Rhodes, reaching for the belt which Dusty pulled away and hid behind his back. He sneered at Harley. Then the referee and timekeeper came into the ring, also

**Dusty Rhodes:  
"THEY STOLE  
THE BELT I WON  
WITH MY  
BLOOD!"**

to take the belt away from the "American Dream."

A look of crushed glee fell over Dusty's face. He became violent and jumped over the top rope, still holding the belt. They pursued him, finally catching him as he was half-way to the dressing room.





Above: Rhodes has Race in pain from a lateral leglock. Right: Dusty pulls Harley's hair, increasing the already agonizing pain of an armbar.

"It's mine," Rhodes cried.

"You didn't win it," the referee said.

"Race is still champ," the timekeeper said.

Rhodes looked over their heads at the smirking face of Harley Race, his reddened shape leaning patiently against the rope. Dusty didn't bellow fitfully. Instead, he handed the belt to the referee and stood in the aisle, a dazed expression on his bloody face.

He just stared at the referee, the timekeeper, and the arrogantly triumphant figure of Race dancing around the ring, brandishing the belt. With a deep sigh changing the faces of nearby fans into mosaics of empathetic pain, Rhodes walked down the aisle and into the dressing room.

Once there, the dim, unbelieving eyes gave way to an expression of inhuman rage.



"They stole the belt I won with my blood!" Rhodes screamed in a berserk manner. "I won that belt and they took it from me! How dare they?"

"I had Race whipped. Anyone who was there saw the beating I gave him. How could they deny me the belt? How could they deny my fans the belt?"

"How could they?"

This NWA title match has already entered the books as one of the most controversial title bouts in history. It ended in a one-hour time



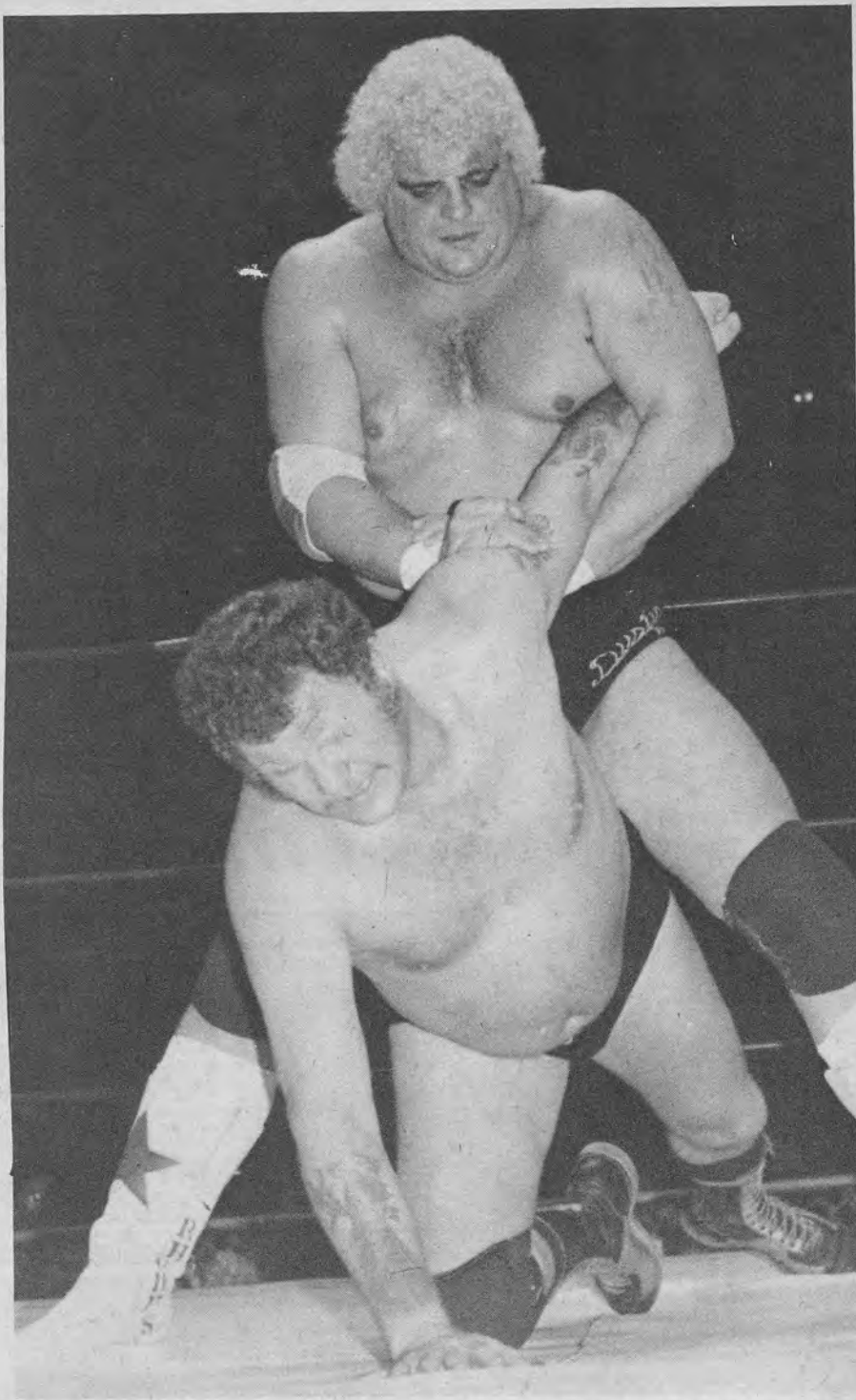
Above: Late in the match, with both men bloody, Race captures Dusty in a front chancery.

limit. The dispute is likely to continue dictating the futures of both Race and Rhodes.

It is sufficient to say Rhodes felt he had conclusively whipped Race, and therefore deserved the title. It is sufficient to say Race felt he couldn't lose his belt unless Dusty had pinned him. It is insufficient to say the referee agreed with Race.

"He didn't win it from me. To become the champ you have to win like a champ," Race sneered. "You get a good look at Rhodes' face? He looked like a piece of raw meat. And he thinks he won?"

Race could have interjected a note of similarity between his



Rhodes applies pressure to a standing armbar. Notice how Dusty's feet are spread wide apart thereby giving him the needed leverage to make this simple maneuver excruciatingly painful.

battered body and Dusty's. They inflicted a horrible beating on each other. The only thing that kept this match going to the time limit was their mutual contempt.

"Sure I wouldn't stop," Rhodes said. "Why should I? He lost. I destroyed him. I beat his ugly face even uglier than before. I was

waiting for the ref to stop it. I out-pointed him. If this had been a boxing match I would have been given the title on points. Didn't I out-point him?"

Well, you see, uh, Dusty, there was that moment when . . .

"I smashed my bionic elbow into  
(Continued on page 58)



# INSIDE WRESTLING'S

# OFFICIAL RATINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters, And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

## World Wide Wrestling Federation



Champion:  
BOB BACKLUND



1—KEN PATERA

## American Wrestling Association



Champion: NICK  
BOCKWINKLE

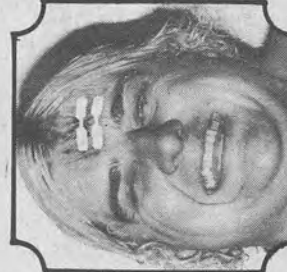


1—CRUSHER

## National Wrestling Alliance



Champion:  
HARLEY RACE



1—DUSTY RHODES

## Most Popular Wrestlers



1—DUSTY RHODES



2—ANDRE THE  
GIANT

## Most Hated Wrestlers



1—KEN PATERA



2—RIC FLAIR

## Tag Teams



1—PAUL JONES &  
RICK STEAMBOAT





2—SPIROS ARION



3—SUPERSTAR  
GRAHAM



4—DUSTY RHODES

5—MIL MASCARAS  
6—TATSUMI  
FUJINAMI (Jr. Heavy-  
weight Champion)  
7—GEORGE STEELE  
8—LUKE GRAHAM  
9—STAN STASIAK  
10—KOBAYASHI



2—RAY STEVENS



3—VERNE GAGNE



4—LARRY HENNIG

5—BLACKJACK  
LANZA  
6—BOB ORTON JR.  
7—BILLY ROBINSON  
8—JIM BRUNZELL  
9—GREG GAGNE  
10—SUPER  
DESTROYER



2—RIC FLAIR



3—JACK BRISCO



4—DICK MURDOCH

5—STAN HANSEN  
6—KEN PATERA  
7—ROCKY  
JOHNSON  
8—TERRY FUNK  
9—PAUL JONES  
10—DICK SLATER



3—MIL MASCARAS



4—BOB BACKLUND



5—JACK BRISCO

6—WAHOO  
McDANIEL  
7—MR. WRESTLING  
II  
8—IVAN PUTSKI  
9—ROCKY  
JOHNSON  
10—RICK  
STEAMBOAT



3—LUKE GRAHAM



4—DICK SLATER



5—GREG VALENTINE

6—SPIROS ARION  
7—BOB ORTON JR.  
8—STAN HANSEN  
9—NICK BOCK-  
WINKLE  
10—KILLER KRUPP



2—DINO BRAVO &  
DON DeNUCCI



3—JIM BRUNZELL &  
GREG GAGNE



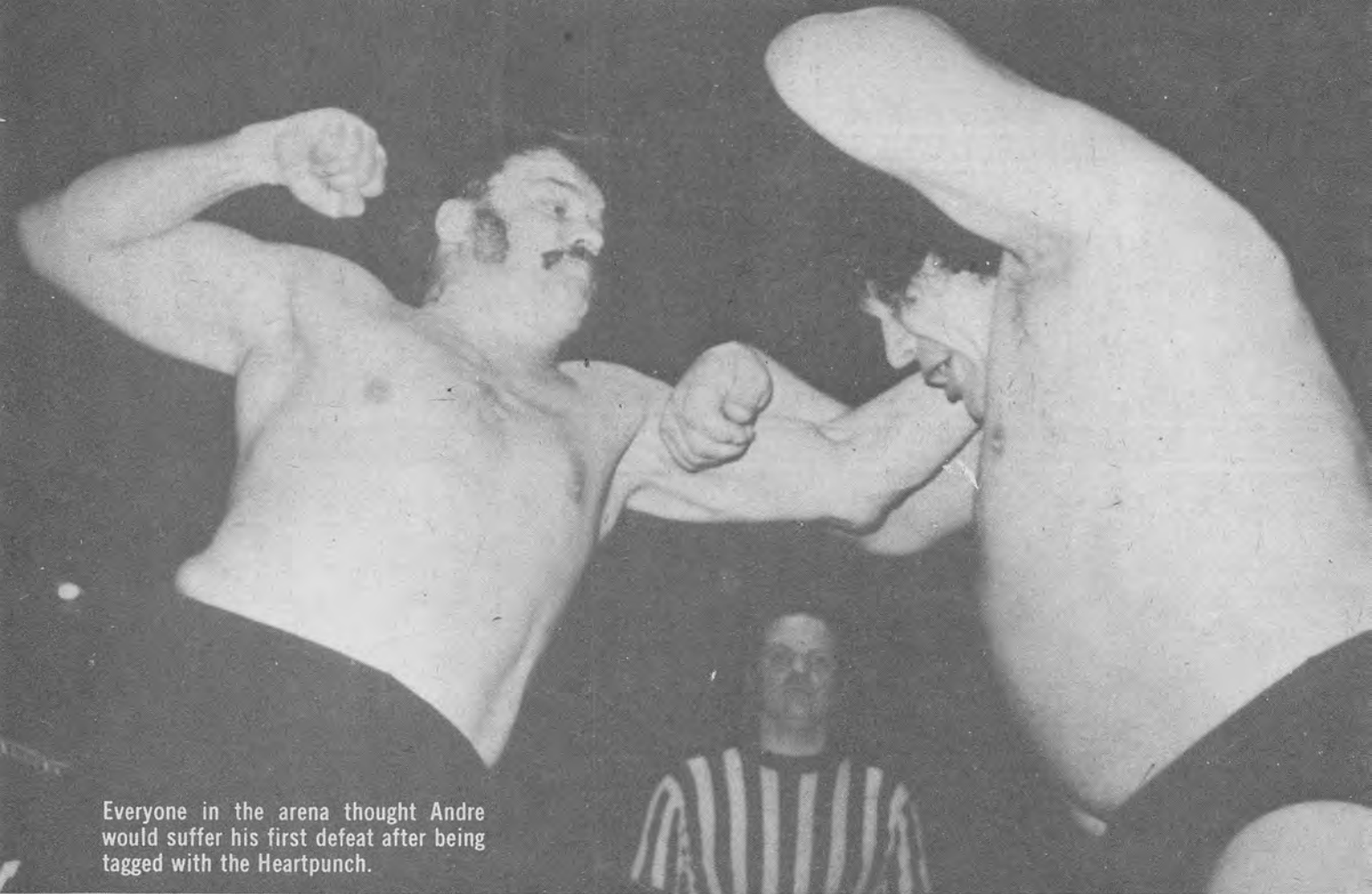
4—MIKE GRAHAM  
& STEVE KEIRN  
5—MR. SATO & MR.  
SAITO

6—JACK & JERRY  
BRISCO  
7—THE VALIANT  
BROTHERS  
8—THE LUMBER-  
JACKS  
9—KILLER BROOKS  
& LEROY BROWN  
10—KEVIN SULLIVAN  
& KEN LUCAS



# ANDRE THE GIANT:

## THE ONLY MAN TO SURVIVE THE HEARTPUNCH!



Everyone in the arena thought Andre would suffer his first defeat after being tagged with the Heartpunch.

**E**VEN THE SEEMINGLY unconquerable physique of Andre the Giant should have been vulnerable to it. Andre *is* mortal. Despite his incredible strength, the sheer logic of the situation dictated that once he went down, he should have stayed down, that Stan Stasiak should have been able to pin him, should have been able to gain credit for yet another heartpunch victory.

As many have learned before,

logic does not apply when dealing with human beings.

The scenario was similar to hundreds of others Stasiak has been involved in. The moment arrives when his rulebreaking has failed to conquer the opponent. At that point in the match, seeing that raw viciousness is insufficient, he knows he *must* deliver the heartpunch.

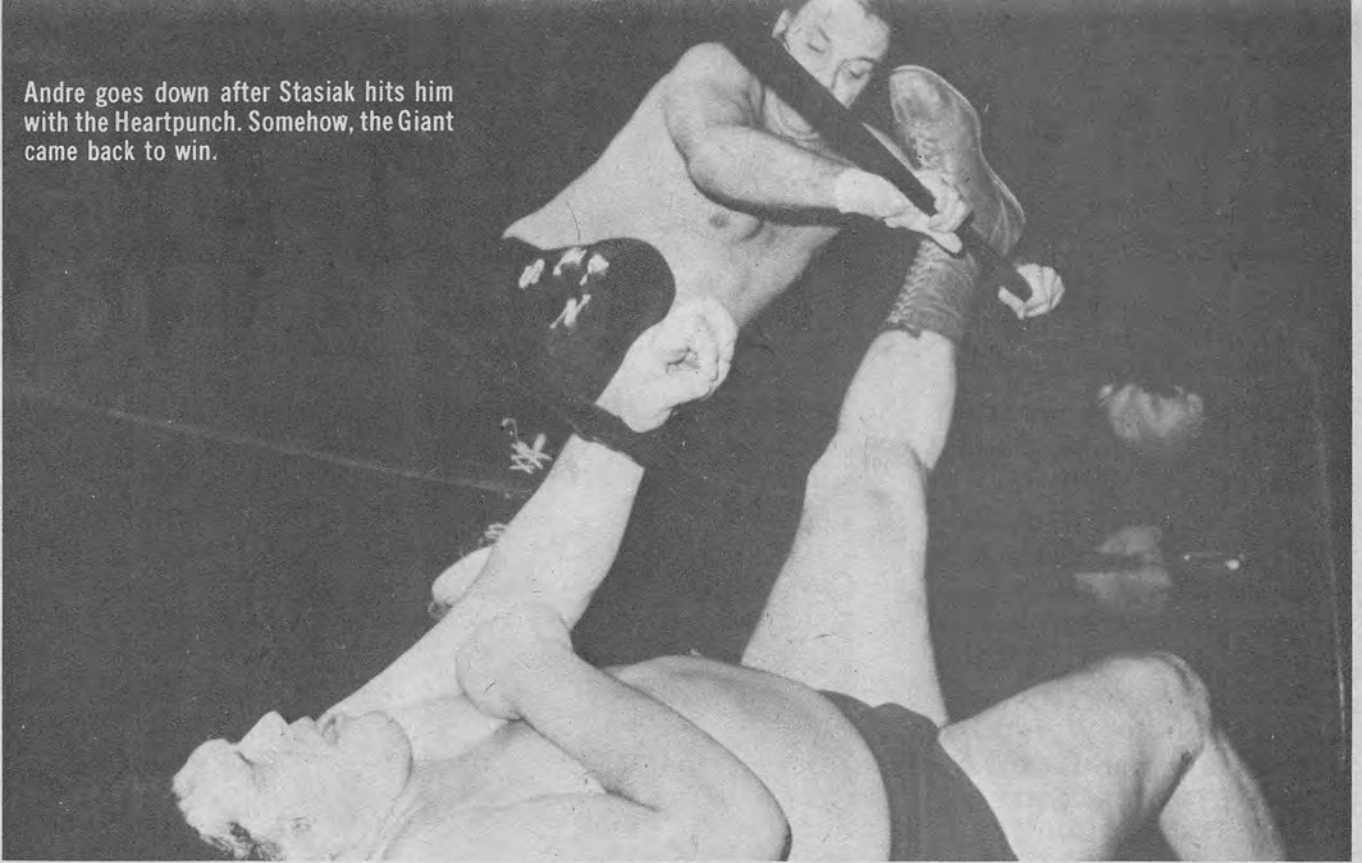
Nothing but irrational hope stood between Andre's chest and

Stasiak's fist. Nothing but the helpless wails from the fans, the daring smile of Andre, the menacing scream of Stasiak as his fist reared back and pounded into Andre.

The Giant staggered, then fell. A gasp of punctured hope descended over Andre's legions of admirers. There was silence. Stasiak's sneering taunts were the sole sound in the hushed arena.

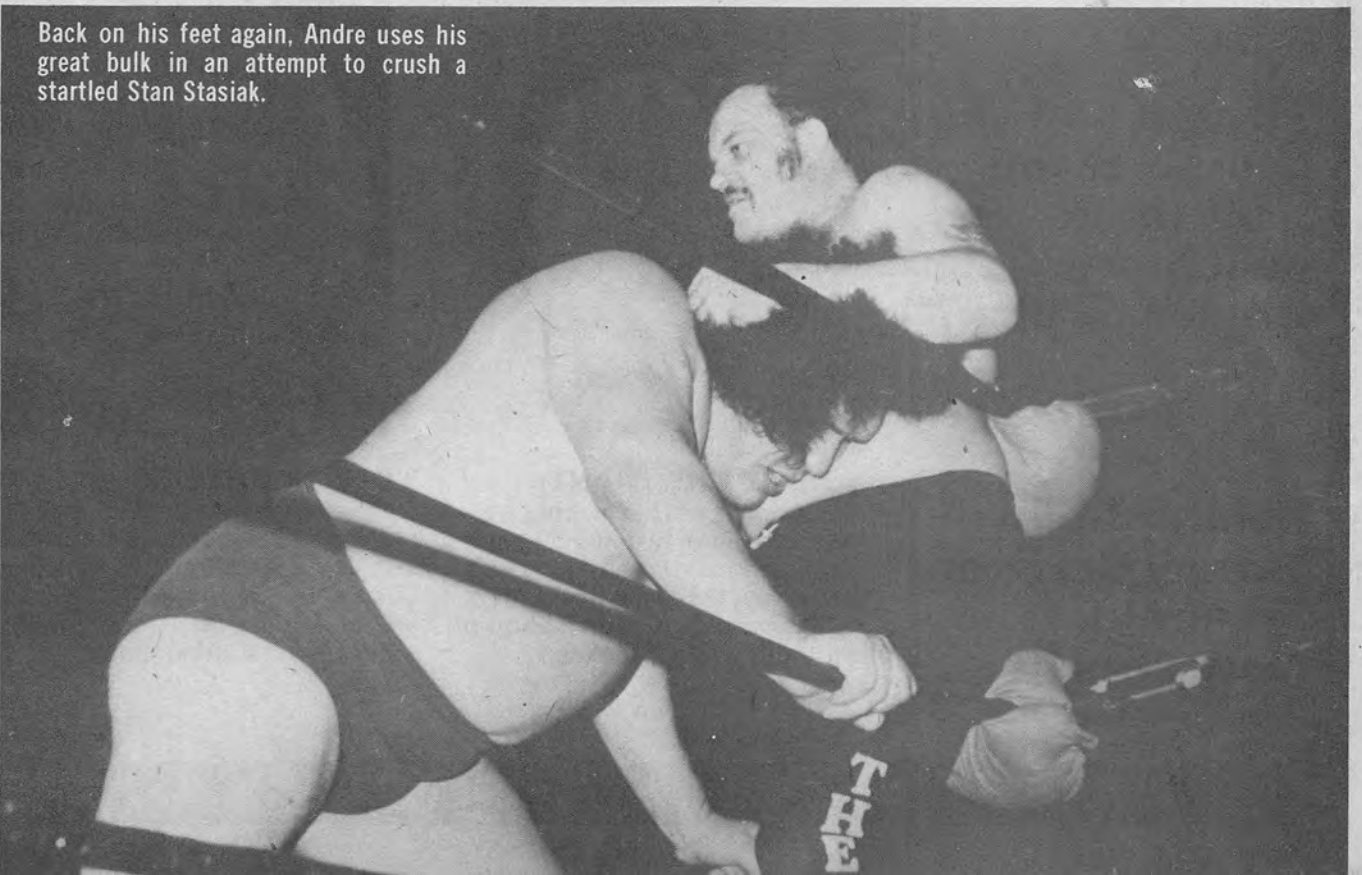
(Continued on page 54)

Andre goes down after Stasiak hits him with the Heartpunch. Somehow, the Giant came back to win.



**Stan "The Man" Stasiak has ended the career of many men with his deadly heartpunch. His next victim was to be the only undefeated superstar, Andre the Giant. As Stasiak found out, no one makes Andre the Giant a victim**

Back on his feet again, Andre uses his great bulk in an attempt to crush a startled Stan Stasiak.





# TOP WRESTLE

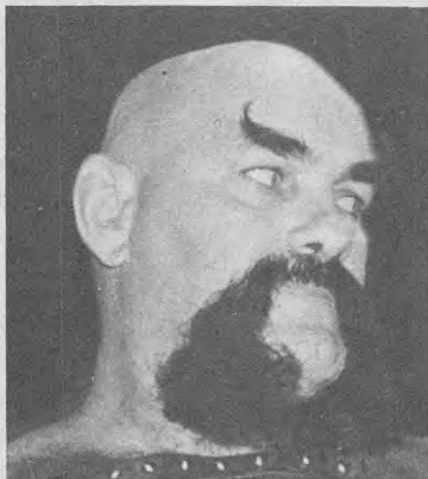
## YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question which concerns all of wrestling? Well, each month in **INSIDE WRESTLING**, the sport's greatest stars will answer a question sent in by a reader. If you wish to have your question answered by the stars, send it to: **ASK THE STARS, INSIDE WRESTLING, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571**

### The "Question of the Month" is:

**"If you had the choice of one hold to master, which one would you pick?"**

**Submitted by:  
Timmy Crawford;  
Freehold,  
New Jersey**



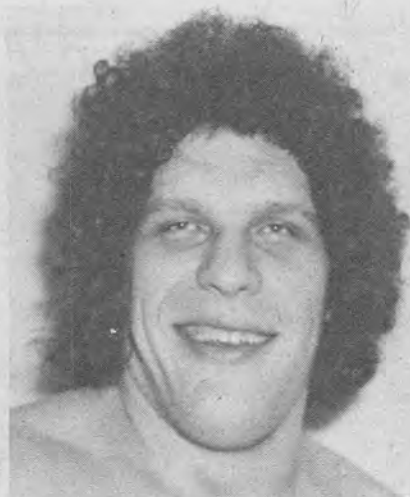
#### **OX BAKER**

"What do I need with another move? I'm great just the way I am and I don't need to take some idiot's move. I've got my own moves. Know what they're called? Strength and courage. That's why I'm great."



#### **PEDRO MORALES**

"It is not an extremely complex hold, but I would like to have the clawhold. Killer Krupp is a repulsive man, but he must be given credit for mastering that hold. I would only use it on rulebreakers."



#### **ANDRE THE GIANT**

"I know it is not likely, but I would like to be able to come off the top rope and master the flying bodypress like Mil Mascaras. I think it is a magnificent combination of strength and acrobatics."



#### **DUSTY RHODES**

"The figure-four leglock has always appealed to me, for two reasons. The first is because my idols, Buddy Rogers and Eddie Graham, used it. The second is because it's a bad, bad hold, baby."

# RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



**JOSE LOTHARIO**

"Definitely the suplex. I like that move. Sometimes I have tried to master it by studying the way Harley Race uses it. I am pleased you asked me this because I have thought about this for a while."



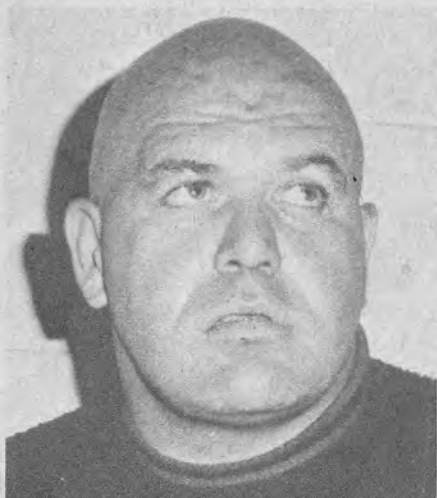
**TONY GAREA**

"The move I'd like is one I already have, the flying dropkick. I admit I haven't perfected it yet but it suits my style and temperament. I've never seen anyone defeat the flying dropkick."



**GREG VALENTINE**

"Even though they're a bunch of boobs, I do admire the Funks use of the spinning toe-hold. What I'd really like to do is master that hold and then cripple one of the Funks with it. That'd be great!"



**GEORGE "THE ANIMAL" STEELE**

"Listen, daddy, the hold I always dug a lot is the abdominal stretch. Man, that is a mean hold which can break someone's stomach wide open. Imagine all the fun blood that would come out?"



**JACK BRISCO**

"The hold I would want to master would probably be the back-breaker. It is a very effective hold and one which I think would be a marvelous complement to my already large repertoire."

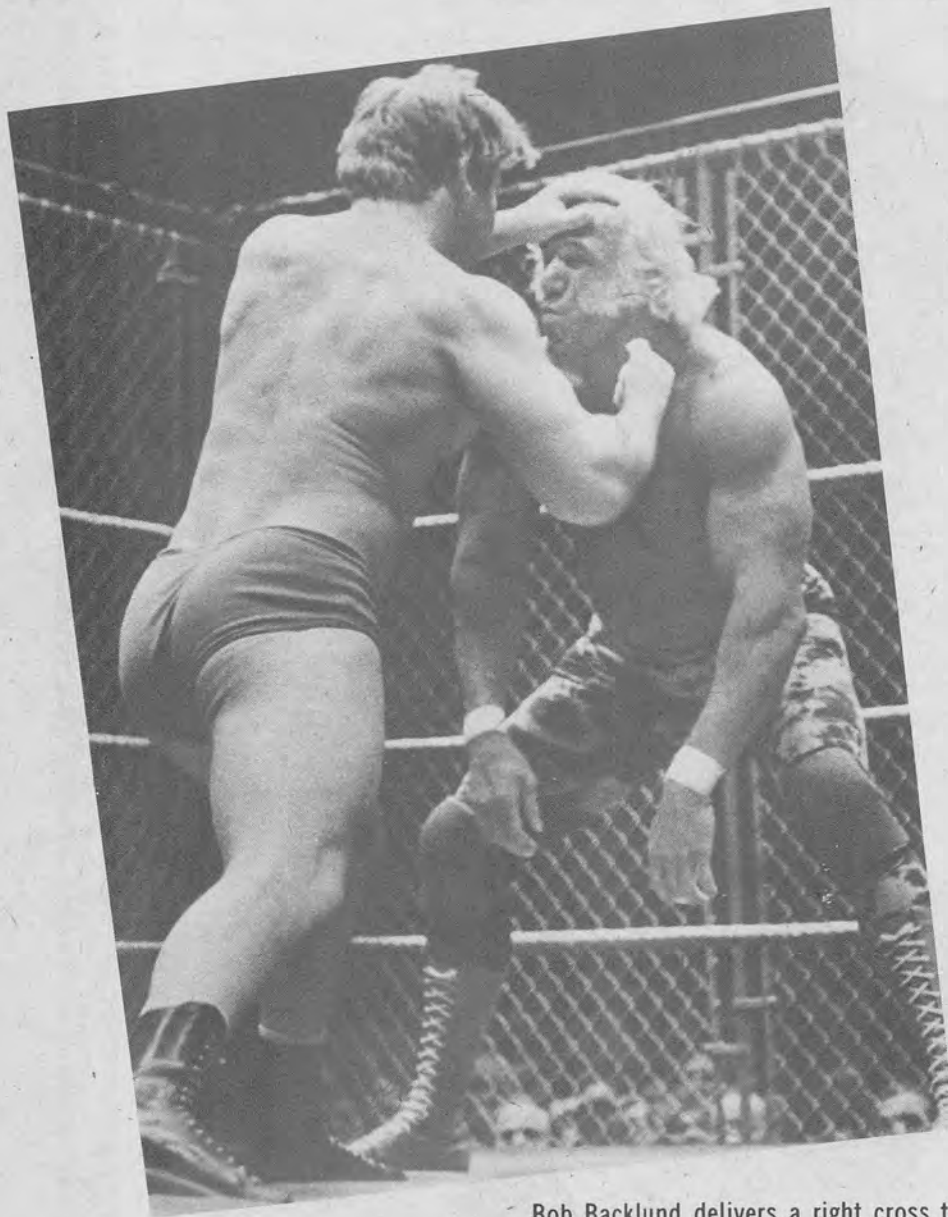


**STAN STASIAK**

"The Boston Crab is a difficult hold, but one which I could easily grasp, given my native skills. If I had that move I would never, ever lose a match, even if the refs tried to rob me, which they do."



# ***Bob Backlund's First Cage Match***



Bob Backlund delivers a right cross to Superstar Graham's jaw. Backlund proved his worth in this match.

**W**HY DID HE do it?

That simple question is perhaps the most fascinating aspect of Bob Backlund's bloody steel cage match victory over Superstar Billy Graham, a match which put the WWF belt at stake.

Why did he do it?

"I believe Bob thinks he still must prove himself. That's why he felt that he had to go against Graham in a steel cage, even though he'd never wrestled a match like this before," said a close friend of Backlund's.

Since systematically destroying Graham in the title match several months ago, Backlund has bested a variety of opponents. Despite many impressive victories against impressive opponents, there have been persistent whispers about Backlund.

He's not tough enough.

He doesn't have the guts.

He'll be gone in a year.

Each comment, offered secretly, of course, stung Backlund. He is a warm, decent person who doesn't understand why he is not universally accepted. Even after he was bloodied in a recent match, the first time he's ever bled badly, the remarks continued, posing a nagging doubt over him.

"So 'he bled,'" said one respected wrestling observer. "That doesn't prove anything except that he can get cut and can bleed. So if he's been wrestling against those tough

# **THE WAR OF BLOOD AND S**

**The door of the steel cage was shut tight. Inside the cage WWWF champion Bob Backlund faced the uncontrolled viciousness of a cage match veteran, ex-WWWF champion Superstar Graham. Was Backlund destined to become Graham's prey in this vicious brawl? No! Bob proved what the word champion means once and for all**

guys, they still have to size him up. He's still a new item. Once they figure him out he'll be dethroned. Mark my words."

That comment had been echoed and thus amplified by other observers. Though Bobby's advisors dismissed them, Backlund seriously considered the reasons and the sources. It led him to make a grave, potentially dangerous decision.

"I want a steel cage match," Backlund announced at a press conference. "I want to wrestle Superstar Billy Graham in a steel cage with no escape.

"Of course I understand how dangerous it can be for me. I have never done it. Graham has been through these type of matches many times. But it is something I must do."

Backlund's shrewd manager, Arnold Skoaland, had been Bruno Sammartino's manager and knew exactly how to prepare a wrestler for this dread match. Skoaland was not informed of Backlund's decision until *after* it was made.

"This was the first time Bobby decided something without first consulting me. I wasn't offended. Once he told me why, I understood," Skoaland explained.

Backlund approached the unique training required of him with his usual somberness. He is a fanatic about exercise, so

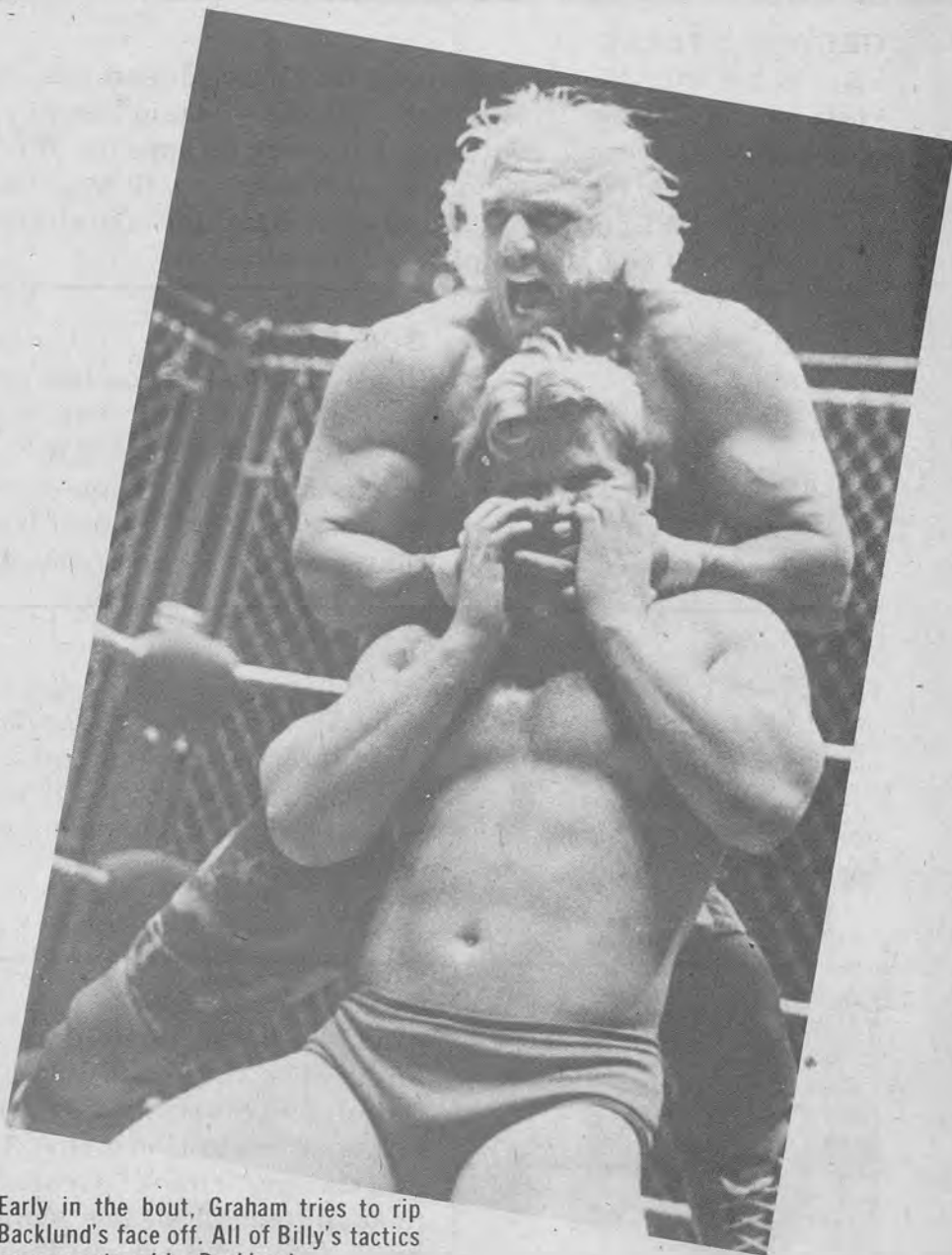
when it was said that he worked *more* than usual, his dedication is to be marveled at.

Finally, Backlund reached the stage of preparation both he and Skoaland thought necessary if the steel cage match was not to end in tragedy. A persistent, indeed

persuasive consideration throughout.

"Every once and a while I thought about what could happen if I lost," Backlund said. "It was always in front, shaped and molded all through training. We would practice this

*(Continued on page 62)*



Early in the bout, Graham tries to rip Backlund's face off. All of Billy's tactics were countered by Backlund.

# TEEL



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Each day, out of the thousands of letters we receive, hundreds of them are from fans asking the whereabouts of their favorite wrestler. In this special column, we will try to answer the questions you ask the most!**

## **GEORGE STEELE**

Fans in the WWWF area certainly don't have to read this to know where George "The Animal" Steele is—he is in that very area wreaking havoc in every arena in which he appears. "My champion Steele," says manager Lou Albano, "will soon be given the WWWF belt by the commission. Backlund is so afraid of George he'll give up the title without a match."

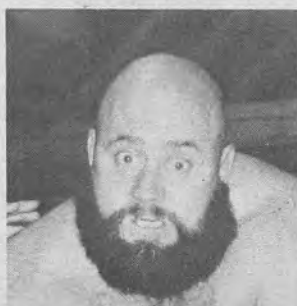


## **BOB ROOP**

Since our last report on this former NCAA heavyweight champion, Bob Roop has moved on from the San Francisco area. Roop has returned to Florida, a state in which he rose to superstardom a few years ago. Although he wasn't available for comment, we suspect big Bob has his eyes on both the Southern and Florida heavyweight titles.

## **CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW**

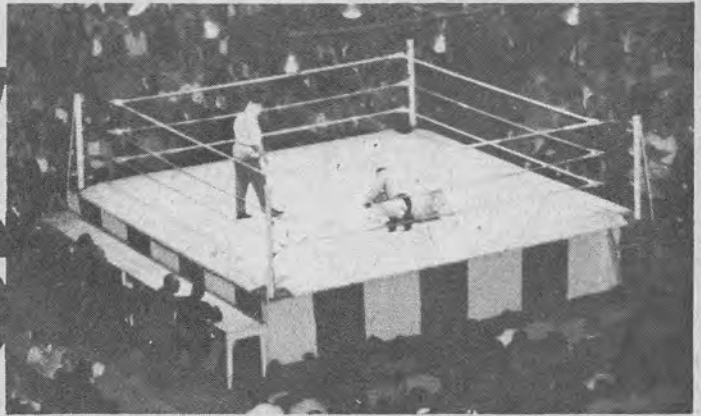
Chief Jay Strongbow's contract with WWWF promoters is still active, although Jay is not. For the last few months, Strongbow has been on the injured list. However, by the time you read this, it is expected he will return to a full schedule. As we hear it, Jay will be even better than ever.



## **BUGSY MCGRAW**

After a triumphant tour of Australia, Bugsy McGraw has returned to the U.S. He has signed a contract to appear in Detroit and other Michigan rings. During a wrestling card at Michigan State University, Bugsy told us he might enroll at that college. "I think I'll major in accounting. I don't know how to keep track of all this money I've made from crippling my opponents." We wonder if Bugsy will make the Dean's list.

# SINCERELY YOURS



## MARY POPPINS?

If Randy Gordon weren't such a nauseating nicey-nicey guy maybe he would be able to see that rulebreakers have a good side, too.

Gordon is an unrealistic moron who won't be satisfied until he has populated wrestling with weak-kneed good guys who won't ever let anyone bleed. Wise up, Gordon, if you

can, and see that this is a violent sport and only a tough guy survives. Who's NWA champ? Who's AWA champ? Good guys? No. Gordon, you're an ass. If you had any guts you'd put yourself in a ring with Ken Patera. He'd shut your stupid trap.

DEAN TAVERAS  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

## WHY'D THEY GIVE IN?

I really don't understand "Why One Man Must Leave This Team Forever" (July 1978). It's terrible that Mil, Dusty, and Andre gave in to the rulebreakers.

So what if they wouldn't fight them? Doesn't that reflect badly on the bad guys? Those three men are men of principles and they should have retained those ideals and never broken up the team.

TODD WEISSMANN  
Jericho, N.Y.



Above: Bob Backlund smiles before his match with Superstar Graham, a bout in which Bob was bloodied. Right: Mil Mascaras contemplates his future.

## HAD TO HAPPEN

So "Bob Backlund Learns the Bloody Horror of Being Champion" (July 1978), does he? I don't know what he's complaining about. Why wouldn't he bleed like everyone else? His face is certainly not anything to preserve.

Everyone bleeds and everyone gets knocked down. Backlund is too much of a twerp to be able to take this, that's obvious. A real champion doesn't worry about those things. A real champion knows he has to expect it.

My point? Backlund isn't a real champion. Come on back, Superstar. We need you.

ELLIOT GLADSTONE  
Tampa, Fla.

## 1000 DAYS OF SHAME

For anyone to praise "Nick Bockwinkle's 1,000 Days As Champion" (July 1978), is to find new depths of vulgarity. This man is nothing but a low-down, disgusting excuse for a wrestler. He has kept his 'title' for 1,000 days only by using vicious tactics in the ring.

Bockwinkle's a paper champion. Your story was definitely one-sided and a gross violation of any journalistic ethics.

JOHNNY CAGNEY  
Newark, N.J.

(Continued on page 64)



# BEN STRONG

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## ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 8)



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WWWF champion Bob Backlund (above) and NWA king Harley Race (below) both went on the road with our beloved former columnist, Michael B. Kape.



incidence of fan violence: the possibility of having a second referee in the ring; can wrestling ever expect to have just one world champion; and many other important concerns.

The first project I have undertaken is a broad-based investigation into whether certain wrestlers should be suspended or banned from the sport. The first report regarding this matter has already been published (WRESTLING ANNUAL/Fall 1978). However, there is no way of telling just how far-reaching this work will eventually be.

I am very fortunate to have friendships with many great wrestlers. They have all promised me complete cooperation in this venture. I feel their aid will be instrumental in achieving the goals of the IFW. Men like Dusty Rhodes, Jack Brisco, Ken Patera, Bob Backlund, Superstar Graham, Mil Mascaras, and Rocky Johnson have been helpful to me in the past. I expect them to be cooperative in the future.

Many of my colleagues asked me to reconsider my decision to become IFW chairman. They pointed out to me the virtues of being a wrestling reporter—the

glory, the travel, the commitment. But I feel my mission for the future of wrestling takes precedent over all other concerns. I do love what I have been doing, and I will miss it. But there comes a time in everyone's life when he must make a major change, must exert his influence to make this world the best of all possible worlds. By joining the IFW, I feel I am doing my part.

Of course, I would be less than honest if I did not admit I have many regrets about leaving **INSIDE WRESTLING**. It has been one of the best experiences of my life. I will always be grateful to our esteemed editor, Peter King, for giving me the opportunity to become a member of this staff. From Randy Gordon and Dan Shocket, I learned the inner workings of wrestling. Bill Apter showed me how to dig up the best possible story. And there are many others who aided me along the way. It would be impossible to list them all.

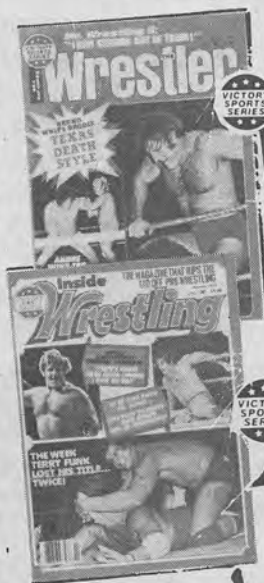
The sun is setting over the ocean outside my summer home here. It is a glorious sight, one which normally lifts my spirits. But today it saddens me. I realize that come Monday morning, I will not be heading down the Long Island Expressway to search for a story. There will be no more endless nights in strange motel rooms sitting in front of a typewriter trying to squeeze out the last few words of an investigation. Come Monday morning, I will be heading for Manhattan, for a beautiful wood panelled office. There is a magnificent view of the East River. And there is important work waiting for me to do.

The Institute for Fairness in Wrestling has issued the challenge, and I have accepted it. I look forward to achieving the goals of the IFW. But I will always fondly remember the time I spent on the road.

Good-bye. ☐

# Don't Be Caught Short!

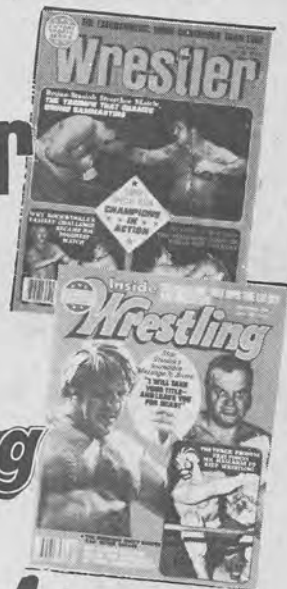
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## BODYSLAMS & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page 10)

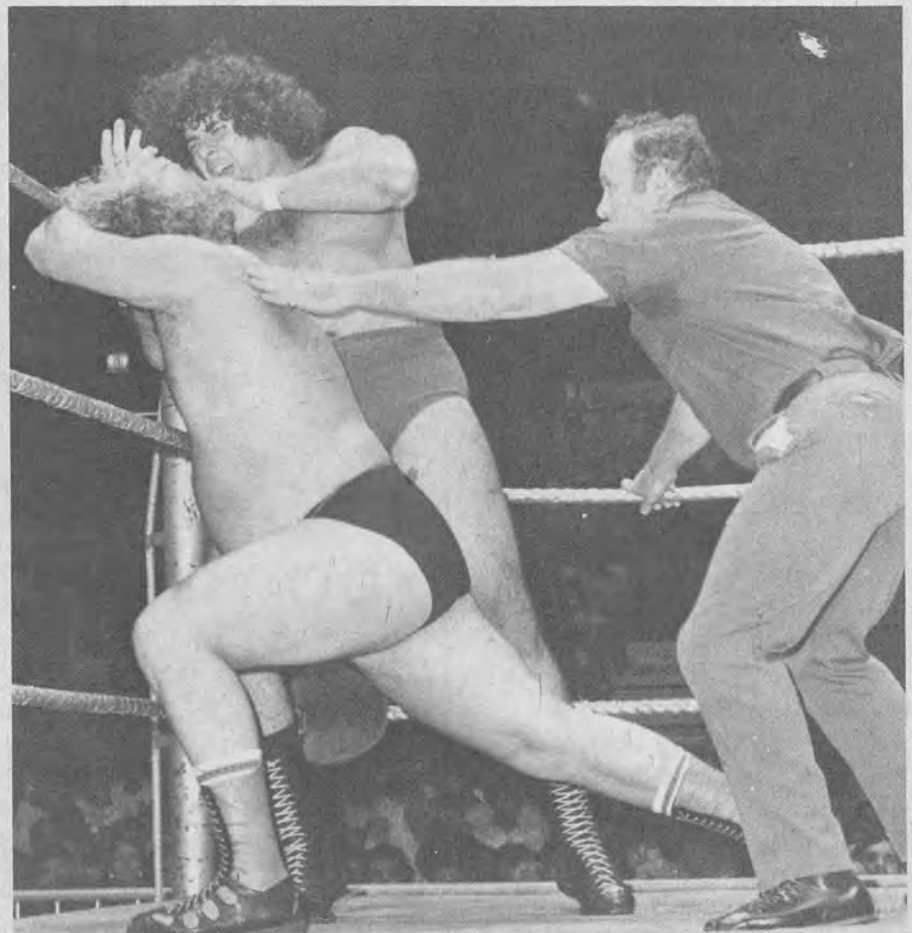
stick. They're forced to travel, often kicked out of an area at the first opportunity. Men like Ivan Koloff, Stan Hansen, Bruiser Brodie, and Spiros Arion know their real enemy never faces them in the ring. It's the promoters whom they must beat time and time again. And the promoters are doing what the fans want.

Guys with guts scare the fans. Crowds like to cheer the safe, the stupid. That's why cowards like Paul Jones, Bob Backlund, and Greg Gagne can stay in one place forever. When someone comes along like Stan Stasiak, the fans get scared. They know he'll destroy their favorite. So the promoters give the so-called rulebreaker a fast shuffle and he's on the road again.

This must stop. Too many careers have been wrecked by constant traveling, not getting a chance to really study the competition. The best wrestlers in the world are never allowed to be at their best. In no other sport do the fans consciously destroy the best athletes. Only wrestling fans are that stupid.

One would think the promoters would stand up to the fans, showing courage instead of cowardice. One would think that only until one hears these greedy swine discussing wrestling. To them it's only

It's truly great to see a real man like Spiros Arion. He shows Bob Backlund up for the punk he really is.



dollars and cents. They have never marveled at the beauty of a piledriver, cheered a flying backbreaker. To them, money talks and all others must silently obey.

And the fans are little more than inconsequential nits, whose sense of sport rivals a blind man's sense of color. Can they really be dumb to the genius of Ray Stevens, Super Destroyer, and Ric Flair. Can they really worship Rick Steamboat? Have they no eyes to see? Have they no brains to appreciate what they see? The evidence seems to point to blindness and stupidity.

So those few matches when the greats are around must be appreciated to their fullest. We must cherish the bouts when Spiros Arion thrills with his magnificence. We must try to forget that one day he will be driven from us, forced into exile by fans too stupid to appreciate him and promoters too greedy to care. Cowards like Chief Jay Strongbow and Peter Maivia will once again sleep soundly.

Is there any way to change this disgrace? Lou Albano, no stranger to explosions from areas, doesn't think so.

"When I first started," the wily veteran recalls, "I couldn't believe the fans were so stupid. I thought I was coming into the sport when fan intelligence had to be at its lowest. Then, as I matured, it became apparent fan intelligence is always at its lowest. I gave up a long time ago hoping to see smart fans and courageous promoters. You just accept it as a fact of life. Fans don't change. Promoters don't change. You just have to realize neither of them matters as much as a drop of spit in the ocean. You do what you have to do. That's all that matters."

That's one way to look at it. It's criminal to think that may be the only way to look at it. □

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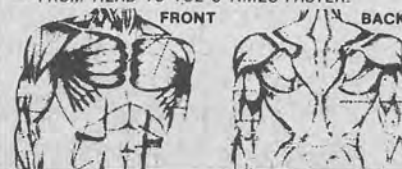
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## BEHIND THE DOOR

(Continued from Page 18)

authorized to check a wrestler's taped hands. You are not a commission member. You are a sneaky reporter who is out to destroy this beautiful sport, and there's nothing in any rulebook where it says sneaky reporters are allowed to check a wrestler's taped hands."

That told me one thing: Stasiak was hiding something. What else could I think? What would you have thought? I asked him again to allow me to examine the hand.

"I said get away from me," yelled Stasiak. "You have no right whatsoever to check my hand. When state athletic commissions make it a law that reporters should be allowed to check a wrestler out before a match, then, and only then, will I let you come near me. My hand

has already been examined, as you saw, and all I have on is some tape. Now get out of here!"

As I left, he laughed, "and make sure you write that the long controversy is over—that Stan Stasiak does not use a foreign object of any kind under the tape!"

Well, with a bit of prying, snooping, and asking questions, I found out that the commission member who checked out Stasiak's hands in New York is also Stasiak's cousin. I also found out that Stan has been paying off commission members across the country for a long time to overlook his taped fist. Every company, every organization, every athletic commission has its "one bad apple." It seems Stasiak seeks that one bad apple out, and uses him to pull off his dirty maneuvers. A full scale investigation is now under way to weed out these men who have been aiding one

of wrestling's most notorious rulebreakers. They should all hang for their crimes against wrestling!

I have some good news to report to fans in the mid-Atlantic area. Despite stories to the effect that Rick Steamboat is leaving the area, I spoke to him and he said, "I don't know where people are hearing these stories about my leaving. Perhaps they misinterpreted something I may have said on television. But I'd like to let all my fans know I really love them and appreciate all they do for me. A guy would have to be crazy to leave everything that I have. No, you can tell all my fans, and also all my opponents, that Rick Steamboat will be in the Mid-Atlantic area for a long, long time."

Last week, I was at a match in the AWA area in which Blackjack Lanza sent preliminary wrestler Jerry Lee to the hospital with severe facial cuts. Lanza put those cuts there with a sharp foreign object. The sight of Jerry was a sad one when I went to visit him in the hospital. His face was swathed in bandages, and he was moaning from the agony of his wounds. I whispered in his ear, "I'll get Lanza for you, Jerry. I'll do something, anything. But I will get him, that I promise!"

A few nights later, I was able to slip into Lanza's dressing room, disguised as one of the arena's maintenance men. I poured large amounts of itching powder into his boots and gloves, then left. It was powder that is supposed to work for up to five days, causing large welts and rashes. It cannot be washed off. I don't know how much Lanza suffered from the powder,

but I hope it was for at least a few days. I do know that it worked, because the ring announcer said, "Blackjack Lanza will not be appearing tonight . . . he suddenly took sick a few minutes ago in his dressing room." I hope he really suffered, the rat!

More good news. The rumor mill that had Rick Steamboat leaving the Mid-Atlantic area, also had Tony Garea returning home to New Zealand—for good. This simply is not true. Occasionally, Tony gets homesick. It happens to anybody who stays away from home for extended periods of time. When he gets the urge, Tony now packs his bags and heads home for a few weeks. Then it's back to the WWWF, where Garea says, "The competition is the best in the world." To the rulebreakers of the area he says, "I'm not going anywhere. I plan on staying here and running every one of you out." I'm sure a statement like that makes men such as Lou Albano, Ken Patera, Billy Graham and Luke Graham sick to their stomachs. That's too bad, isn't it!

If this column is the first thing you are reading in this issue, you are just finding out that Michael B. Kape has left this magazine. Read Mike's "On the Road" column this month for the complete story. Michael helped me out on many occasions. He even saved me from total destruction at the hands of rulebreakers more times than I can remember. I owe a lot to Mike and wish him a lot of luck in his new job as head of the newly formed Institute for Fairness in Wrestling. The sport is lucky, because Mike has only switched jobs and has not left wrestling—a field in which he will devote his life. But we at INSIDE WRESTLING, especially yours truly, are taking the move by Mike especially hard. We hope he's happy in his new job. □

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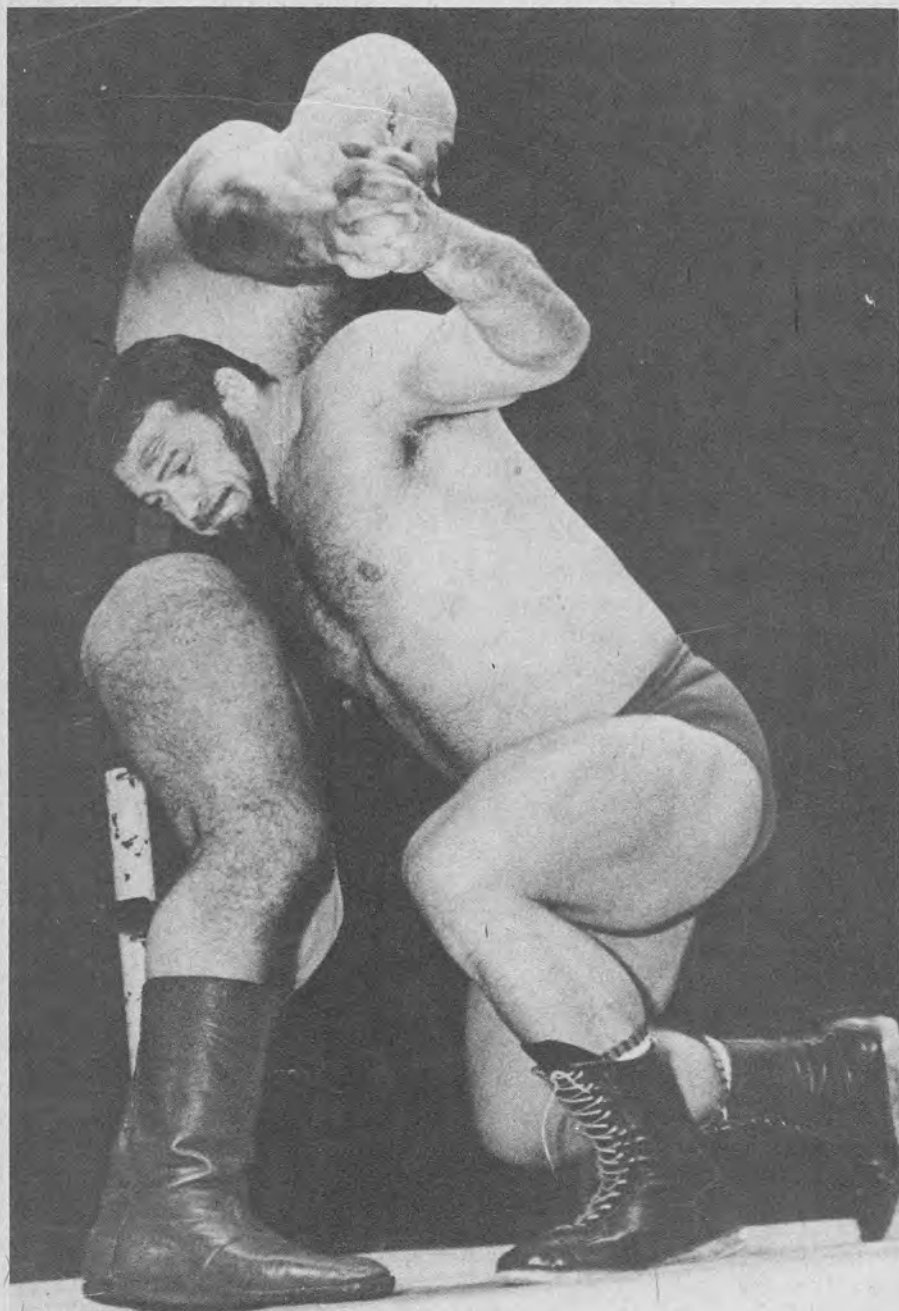
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## Putski vs. Koloff

(Continued from Page 28)



Ivan Putski and Ivan Koloff, two of wrestling's strongest men, battle in an agonizing test of power. In this match, Putski tried to exact the hatred he's felt for 30 years. Putski hates Koloff and everything Russian!

with the rumbling of Soviet tanks and the cry of bullets and victims. Though he tried to keep out the horrors of war, Ivan Putski was infected with vengeance. He swore revenge.

He had to wait.

For 30 years. Through seething hatred. Through acidic bitterness. For revenge.

He finally got it.

It lasted only 10 minutes. Ten minutes of utter savagery. Ten minutes of blood. Ten minutes of revenge.

The object of Putski's wrath was the hated representative of Soviet arrogance and domination. Ivan Koloff.

Koloff is fond of displaying his

alleged Russian superiority and defending the hapless submission of the Iron Curtain countries.

"Those weak swines," Koloff thundered. "They dare not rise up against the mighty Soviet Bear. We have taught those whimpering swines a lesson before and we will do it again. As I do every time I step into the ring against one of these pests."



Koloff slams his Russian boot into Putski's head. In this bout, Koloff learned what "Polish Power" is.

Most of Koloff's opponents wearily tolerate his vulgar comments. A few become angered and seek to shut the ugly mouth.

Only one truly becomes saturated with rage.

He has a good reason.

"Poland? Hah, those swine fell before us easily. They were too busy eating their stupid sausages and drinking their 151 proof vodka to bother fighting like men. Vermin and lice. That is what Poland is composed of."

Putski stood in his corner, his face a whitened mass of hatred.

"You know all those Polish jokes," Koloff continued. "They are true. They are dumb. They cannot fight back. Like when we took over their country. All those

(Continued on page 52)

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## Putski vs. Koloff

(Continued from Page 51)

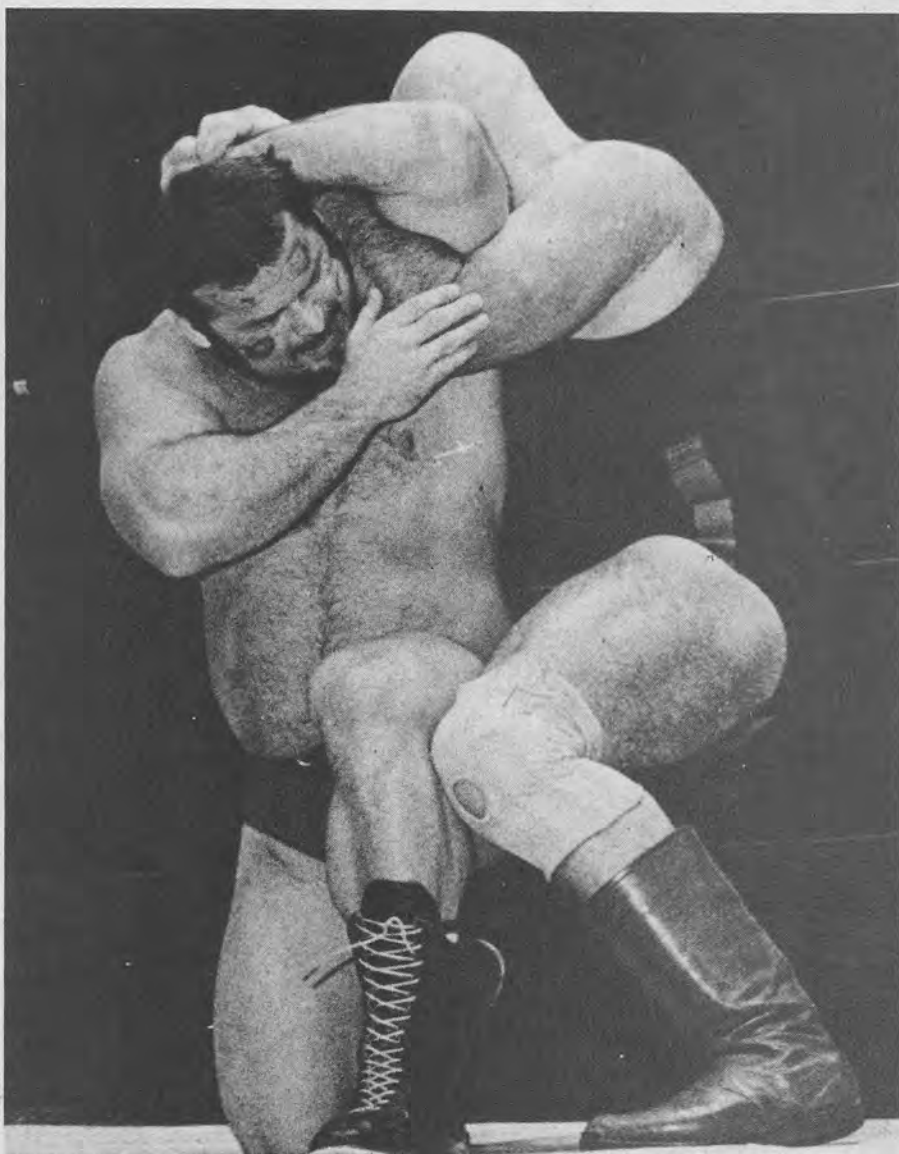
little cowards running away in terror."

Putski's eyes narrowed in pained remembrance, the sight of his village burning, the sound of his relatives being executed. The sound of death.

be shown through his actions.

Koloff lashed out with his right foot at Putski, missing him. Putski jumped on top of the Russian and pounded his head into the canvas.

Koloff freed himself and kned Putski in the groin. As the



Koloff snares Putski in a Ukrainian Grapevine. Only Putski's superhuman strength allowed him to survive. Soon after this dramatic photo was taken, Putski escaped the hold and sent Koloff running from the ring.

And then the cry of revenge.

Koloff was in mid-sentence when Putski, to the roars of his approving fans, leaped atop Koloff and slammed him to the ground. He said nothing. He was determined that his hatred would

avenging Polish Prince doubled over, Koloff cracked his hand against Putski's head. Ivan tottered momentarily and Koloff thought this was the moment to conclusively destroy his opponent. He was wrong.

Putski stepped aside and grabbed Koloff's charging body around the waist. With one fluid motion he flung Koloff in the air. The Barbaric Bear crashed to the canvas. Before Putski could jump on him, Koloff rolled over and, picking up a chair, threw it at Putski. Ivan ducked but the referee interceded on behalf of fairness and decency.

Putski was awarded the win on a disqualification.

"I can't talk now," Putski mumbled incoherently in the dressing room. "Please give me a few moments to regain my composure."

The group waited patiently, allowing this man time to stitch his painful emotions together.

"Now I will talk. Thank you for your courtesy," Putski said gently. "I do not like to gloat when I have won. That is not the way I am."

"But I want to express how much this victory means to me and all



Koloff continues to work on the back muscles of Putski. This victory was a great one for Ivan Putski.

those who have been victimized by the Soviet Union's oppression.

"They say we are afraid. We are not. We wait until we can repay them for what they did to us. As I have repaid Ivan Koloff. And the people of my village." □

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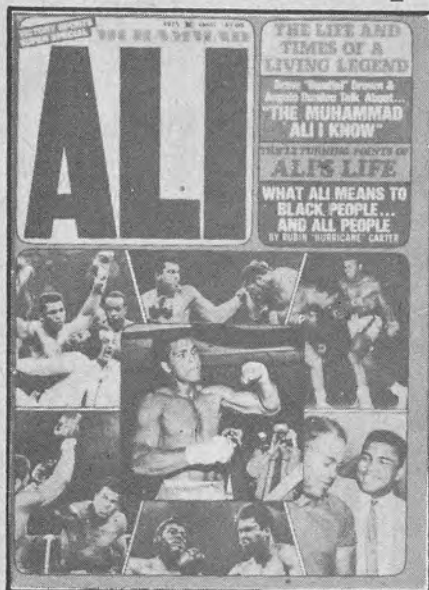


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## ANDRE THE GIANT

(Continued from Page 36)

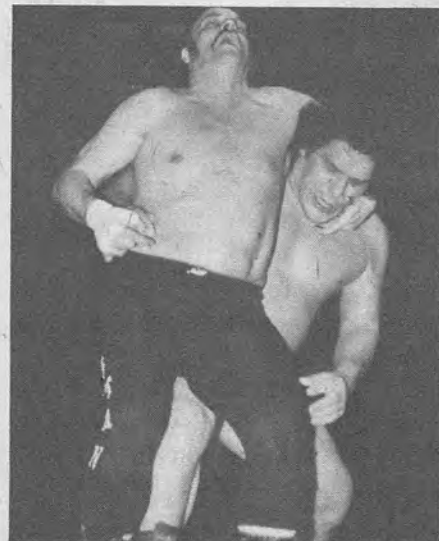


Stasiak went to finish Andre off. Then it happened. The Giant lumbered to his feet, his recovery freezing Stasiak in a pose of horrified disbelief. Stan shrank from the grinning Giant, yet could not find an avenue of escape.

Andre grinned and charged Stasiak. With one fluid motion, he smashed Stasiak to the ground with a flying bodypress to win the match.

Lest this be interpreted as some sort of invincibility, it must be noted, in the spirit of frankness, that Andre's final rise from the heartpunch was not his *first*. Several times Stasiak floored the Giant. Each time he rose. Each time it seemed that he could survive

Above: Stasiak rears back to deliver yet another Heartpunch. Below: The end is near for Stasiak.





just one more heartpunch. He did. He is the first to do so.

The point to be considered is more a narrowing of the questions raised by the match.

Is it more important that Andre won the match despite being victimized by the heartpunch? Or is it more relevant to Andre's future that he was repeatedly bounced to the canvas by this deadly punch?

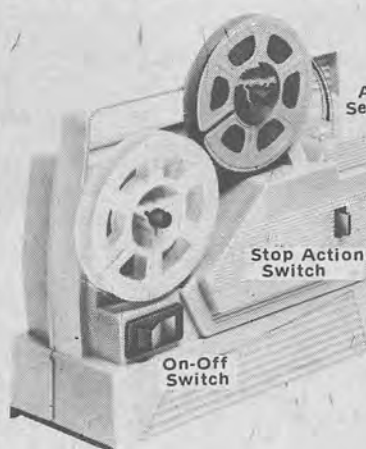
Consider the first point. Stasiak's record is clean as regards to his dread thrusts. He, as well as the fans and ringside observers, were amazed that Andre won. That is borne out by Stasiak's unmoving figure, almost submissive before the Giant's final charge.

(Continued on page 56)

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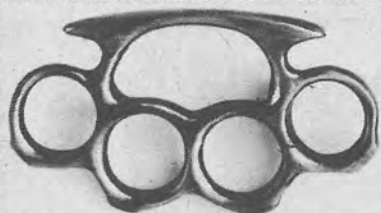
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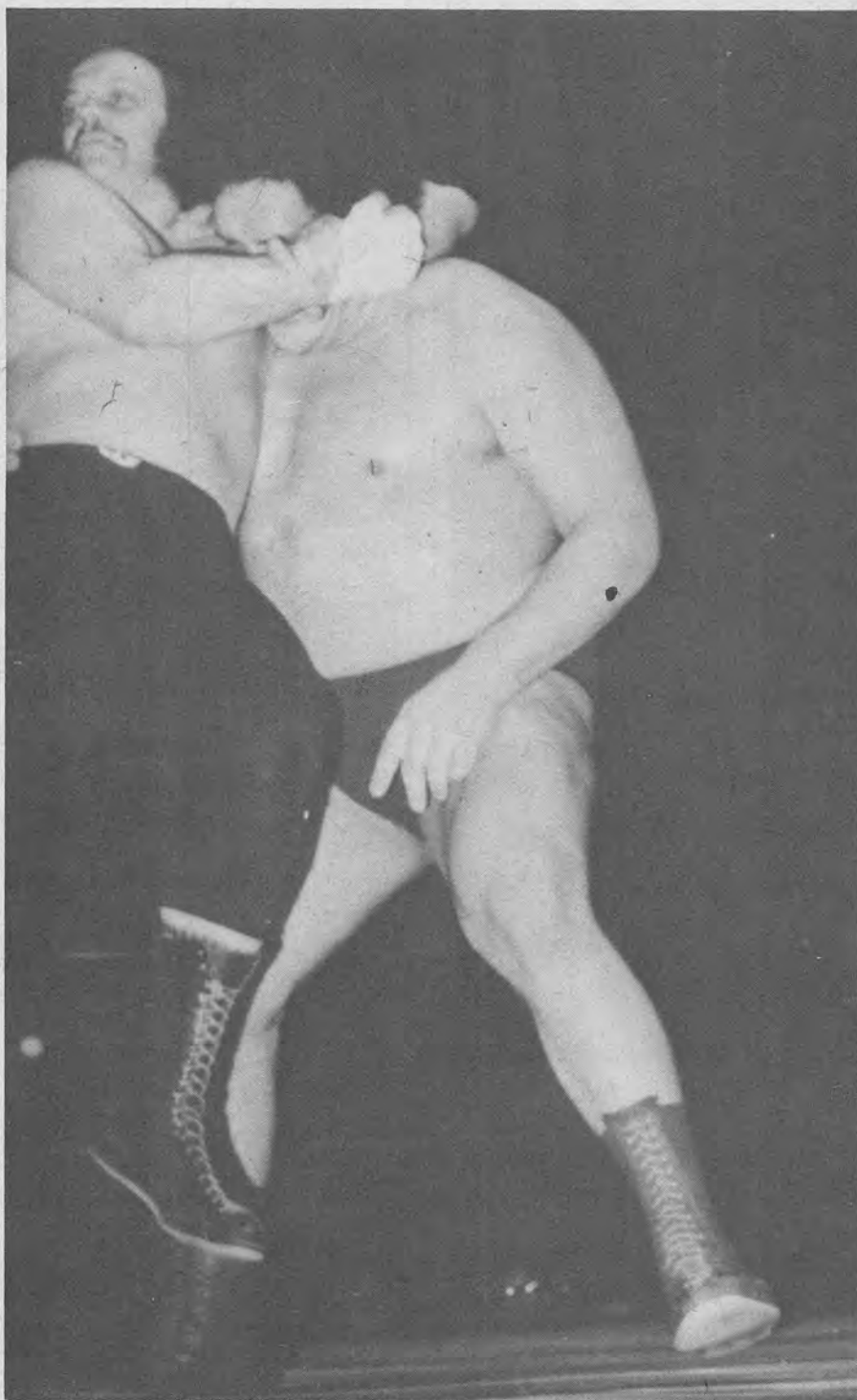
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# ANDRE THE GIANT

(Continued from Page 55)



After Andre arose from the canvas, Stasiak was so startled he could barely keep on wrestling. Never before in his career had Stasiak seen a man climb from the mat after being heartpunched. Here Stan tries to headlock the Giant into submission.

"Yeah, I was surprised. Maybe he ain't human," Stasiak commented.

The ability to withstand a Stasiak heartpunch is yet another impressive achievement in Andre's

extraordinary career. This amplifies the legend, the mystique which swirls about this humble man.

But what about Andre's prone position on the canvas?

"I am only human," Andre said. "I bleed and I hurt and I can go down. Only not as easily as others. Many others."

Perhaps Andre has been held up to a higher standard than that accorded other grapplers. His strength, size, and of course, his legend, provide him this questionable privilege. Perhaps the fact that there is discussion about his falling to the canvas is ample proof of this.



The action is rough as both grapplers mix it up with ferocious tactics in the middle of the ring.

"This heartpunch is the most deadly move in wrestling," Andre said. "Why shouldn't I be as susceptible to it as others? It is not the size that matters here. It is the size of the heart."

Thus, as always with Andre, each event is magnified until it takes on disproportionate meaning. True, he survived the heartpunch. The only man to take it and win. True, he was knocked down several times by it. As have others.

Yet that small but significant border between Andre and the rest of the world's wrestlers remains. He can fall but he can rise again. That is what must be focused upon in analyzing this match.

"The guy is somethin' else," muttered Stasiak. "How does he do it?"

Andre just shrugged. ☐

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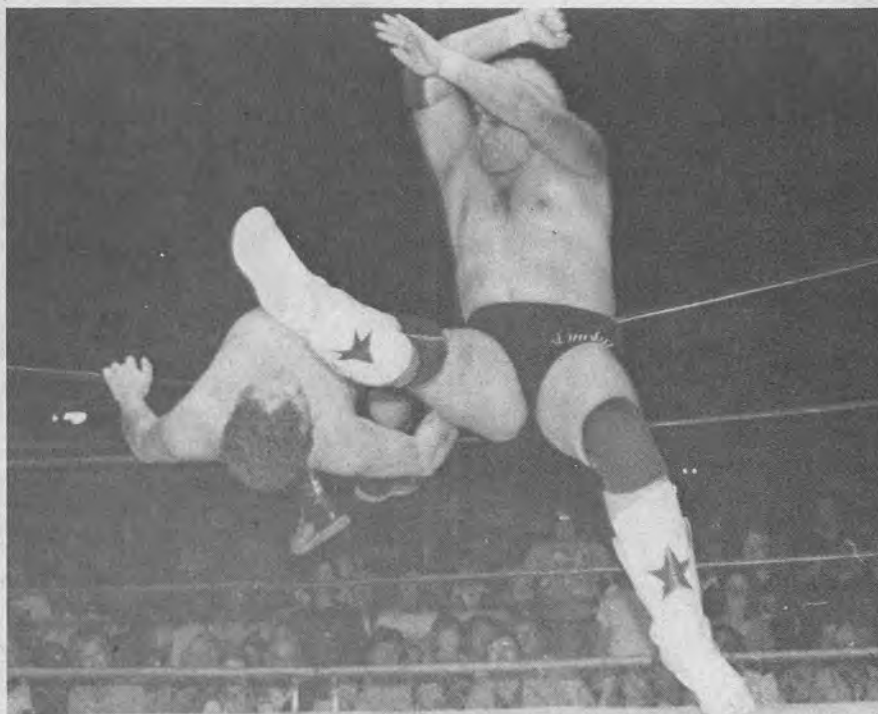
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# Dusty Rhodes

(Continued from Page 33)



Above: Tremendous peak action photo shows Rhodes at his best. Below: Dusty can't believe the NWA belt is not really his.

"I showed who was champ. I am the champ. See this belt? Who's wearing it now?"

Perhaps some description of this war would be interesting. Dusty did smash his bionic elbow to Race's skull. Not a dozen times. Maybe 10. It was enough. Rhodes never retreated. But neither did Race. That's what made this match so incredible. There was never a respite from the violence. It was continuous and unrelenting. Race went into his sack of savagery to find new, innovative, rulebreaking tactics. Many of them were quite successful. Rhodes' face is testament to that.



his head at least a dozen times," Dusty yelled; "At least a dozen times. Look at his head. Look at his blood."

"Look at his blood," retorted Race. "I ripped his head open so wide they could drive two Mack Trucks through it. I beat him up.

But Rhodes matched each cruel maneuver with his own brand of decent violence. He danced into punishing punches, floated about to implement dazzling combinations of both elbow and hand. Observers were amazed that the match went to the time limit. It seemed inconceivable that two men could withstand this kind of beating for so long a time—and

still have the energy to bellow protests afterwards.

"I know I'm champ. My fans know I'm champ. The world knows I'm champ. I'm champ. So there," Dusty cried.

And for Race's version.

"That fat glob of blubber is no champ unless you happen to go



Dusty is about to bring his bionic elbow down hard on Race's arm. Harley was numb for the rest of the bout.

into a restaurant gone bankrupt from his gluttony," Race cackled.

"The belt wouldn't fit around his fat waist or his waving behind or his big head. Though the blood might make it easier, you know, lubrication and all that."

But what was the referee's analysis of the battle?

"It was a draw," he said firmly. "Nether one had an advantage. They tried to annihilate each other but didn't succeed.

"If Dusty had won he would have the belt. He didn't and I'm surprised that a gentleman like Rhodes would be complaining about the outcome."

After half an hour, Rhodes seemed to relapse into that same disbelieving state he left the ring in.

"I know I won," he said softly. "I beat Race and they won't give me the belt. It's not fair.

"But in my heart I know I'm right." ☐

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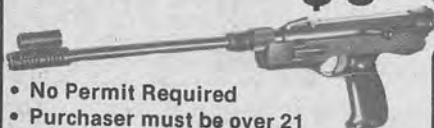
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# Bob Backlund

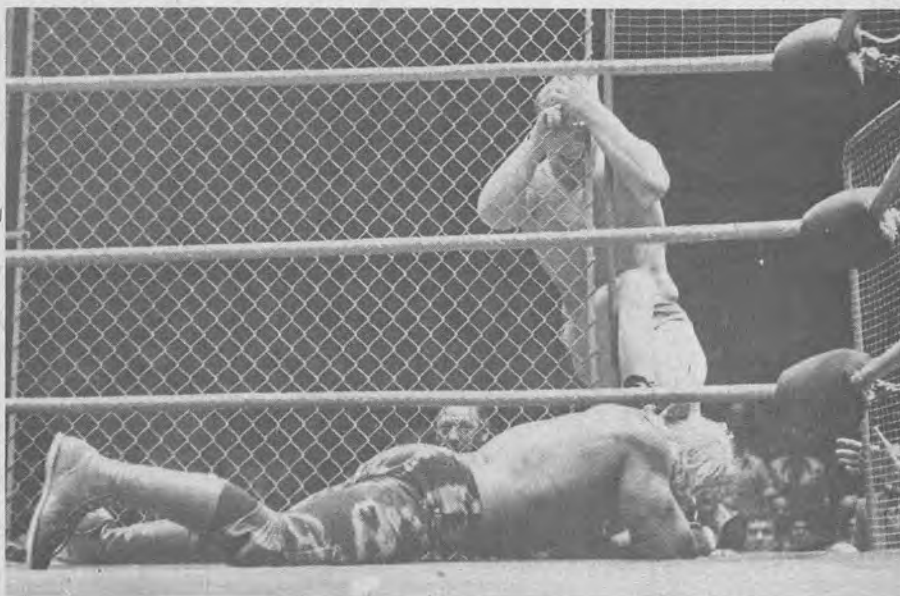
(Continued from Page 41)

to avoid that gruesome end and to avoid that gruesome possibility. It was always on our minds. But I had to do it."

The evening of the match was saturated with the usual Graham pre-match threats. And Backlund, not generally given to much ridicule, was even more subdued. Quiet. Very quiet.

"I had too much on my mind to bother with Superstar's remarks," Backlund said. "Besides, I was afraid his predictions might come true."

In Bob Backlund's brief reign as champion, this match had to be his most magnificent moment of grace and courage. Not only did he defeat Graham



Above: Backlund leaves the cage a convincing winner. Below: Bob enters the battlefield before the bout. Right: Graham leaves a loser.





The advantage keeps switching from Graham (above) to Backlund (below). In the end, it was Backlund's triumph.



but, more importantly, he was never intimidated nor did he once flinch from Billy's malevolent tactics.

Backlund won as Graham lay flat on the ground. Bobby leaped out the door, a rejoicing cry of triumph pouring from his lips.

"No more doubts," he cried happily. "I have proven that I will not avoid anything now. I will not avoid strap matches or steel cage matches or anything they challenge me with.

"Tonight I showed my wonderful fans that I am a true champion. Now when those people whisper that I don't have what it takes, I can ignore them. Now those vicious rumors are just words strung together." □

## TRIBUTE TO YOUR WIFE A Wonderful Happiness Gift!

The Wife...just a simple little sentence of only two words. I suppose you could say, it is not earth shaking. Nothing to get excited about some would say. But, this little sentence describes one of God's most precious creations. And they come in such a variety of shapes and forms...Big ones, little ones, beautiful and homely ones, but they all have one thing in common. And that is the destiny of the world is in her hands. The Weaker Sex...? Don't you believe it. I gave up this belief shortly after I found out just who Santa Claus was. Lets face it men...Pound for pound she is the most powerful force on God's earth. In most cases, she is the quiet one, of a promise made in Heaven. She is content to stay in the background, doing the things she is expected to do, and almost always asking for very little in return. But, no sculpture has ever created a more beautiful piece of work, and no artist ever painted a portrait so lovely as this creation called...Wife, even with her rumpled robe and with curlers in her hair...She has the ability to show tenderness that will melt your heart, and in the same instant display a brittle hardness equal to any man. She is the equal partner of our most blessed institution...the home. And a home that is without a wife is like a rudderless ship floundering on a sea of confusion. Her delicate ways can sooth a man into tranquillity and yet her strength can provoke him almost to the animal stage. In her duties of making a home, if all the energy she puts forth was converted into power, it would stagger the shoulders of a big...big man. Her innocent little ways can put fear into the heart of the most high pressured salesman, but, she will buy the cookies of a little brown eyed girl scout, who happens to knock on the door. She has the strength to forgive when she has been hurt almost beyond repair. Very few men can do this. She can out maneuver the smartest of lawyers in a verbal discussion with her words of simplicity and in the next breath ask if the Dodgers has made a touchdown yet. People in high places just never impress her, but she will work like mad to get to the P.T.A. to see her child perform in a little school play. She keeps a personal vendetta with death, and brings forth one of God's most precious gifts, a tiny life in a bundle of pink or blue. She takes the extra burden and never falters. And never has wrath been shown so savagely as it is when she thinks that something or someone will harm her offspring. And as the golden years of your life approach, you learn to love her even more deeply. And you just can't visualize your life with out her. And as time slowly consumes your days, your need for her seems to grow and grow. You watch the wrinkles gather on her face, and the silver of her hair is more visible each morning, and your mind goes back to younger days, when youth was so dominate, and you find that even now, she is more beautiful, more graceful, and you thank God for all these years together. I think that beyond a shadow of a doubt, she is the most unique creation on earth. Mine has made my life so rich, and so gracious and I can safely say, Thank you God for this person, for this hand that I hold and for this love that I have for...My Wife.

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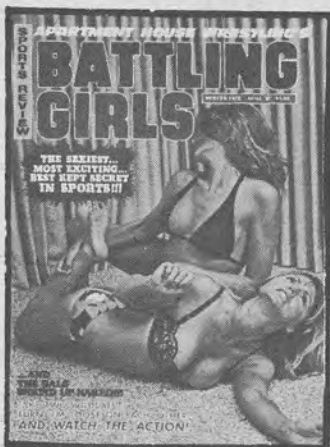
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## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 43)

### A LOT OF CREDIT

I have to give Ken Patera a lot of credit for going into the World's Strongest Man Competition with a bum back. If Patera had that much spirit, why can't he turn back to being a clean scientific wrestler like he used to be.

Maybe he'll get a lot more respect and credit than he did when he finished third in the Strong Man competition with a bum back.

JOE KELLY  
Edison, N.J.



Reader Donnie Glisson says Nick Bockwinkle (above) was lucky to retain his belt.

### WHERE'S THE JUSTICE?

Is there no justice in wrestling? Nick Bockwinkle lost his belt to a scientific wrestler, but after reviewing the film, officials gave the belt back to him because the steel post was used on his head. Blackjack Mulligan lost his belt to a



A fan from New Jersey thinks Ken Patera (above) deserves praise for his performance in a strongman competition.

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Is there a different set of rules for wrestlers like Bruno Sammartino (above) and Billy Graham (below)?



scientific wrestler just to get it back because the wrestler's foot was under the ropes when he was pinned.

Billy Graham used the ropes to pin Bruno Sammartino but Bruno did not get his belt back. My point is that there is a whole different set of rules, one for Bruno and one for the rest of the world. Something should be done about this.

DONNIE GLISSON  
Augusta, Ga. ☐

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